DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Congress RS candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination rejected

Page 10

KEA postpones counselling due to seat matrix delay

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has postponed the counselling for engineering and other professional courses due to a delay in submitting the seat matrix by the government, as it is currently operating without a Higher Education Minister. The counselling was scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

The first round of counselling has been postponed by at least three days, said sources from the education department.

The sources added that in the absence of the Higher Education Minister, the final seat matrix for engineering courses has to be approved by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, as all unallocated portfolios are with him.

"The principal secretary has sought an appointment with the CM to get the approvals," said an official.

For the first time, the state government has decided to go ahead with the counselling without waiting for the NEET results, as the schedule has been delayed due to the NEET-UG re-examination on June 21. "Counseling is likely to commence on June 13, if we get the final seat matrix," said an official of the KEA.

Haris' son gained from Bitcoin scam: SIT charge sheet

Mohd Nalapad first politically linked accused in case

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's Special Investigation Team (SIT) has filed a charge sheet against Mohammed Haris Nalapad in the Bitcoin scam, making Congress MLA N A Haris' son the first politically connected individual to be named in the high-profile case.

According to the charge sheet filed in a Bengaluru court on May 20, the 36-year-old was one of the key beneficiaries of the 60-odd Bitcoins stolen by serial hacker Srikrishna alias Sriki from a Tumakuru-based crypto exchange.

Although the Enforcement Directorate has raided Nalapad, this is the first time he has been named in a charge sheet. However, the charge sheet is yet to be allotted a criminal case number, sources said.

The ED previously accused Mohammed Nalapad, his brother Omar Farook Nalapad, and Aqeeb Khan, the grandson of former Union minister K Rahman Khan, of benefiting from the proceeds in the Bitcoin scam.

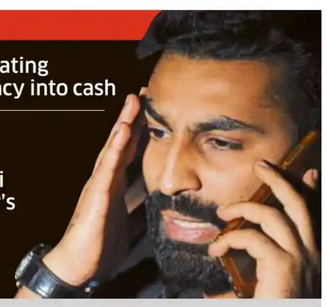
Sriki allegedly stole 60.6 Bitcoins from Tumakuru's Unocoin crypto exchange in 2017. At the time, the stolen cryptocurrency was valued at Rs 1.14 crore. Its value, as of Tuesday, was over Rs 35 crore.

While his exact role remains unclear, Nalapad is accused of facilitating the conversion of cryptocurrency into cash. The money was allegedly routed through hawala channels.

▸ Bitcoin, Page 4

SIT'S CHARGES

- Nalapad accused of facilitating conversion of cryptocurrency into cash
- Money was allegedly routed through hawala channels
- Charge sheet names Nalapad, Sriki and the latter's accountant Robin Khandelwal
- ED also alleges that Nalapad brothers and associates were beneficiaries in the 2017 case



'Propaganda to defame my father'

When contacted, Mohammed Nalapad told DH, "I have not received a copy [of the charge sheet]. All of this is propaganda. It is being done to tarnish my name and my father's opportunity to become a minister. I am sure he is going to be a minister."

KBG reaches Delhi with portfolio grouse

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Disgruntlement over portfolio allocation in the newly formed Karnataka government led by D K Shivakumar continued, with senior minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday rushing to the national capital to seek the Congress high command's intervention.

Gowda, who was allotted the Bengaluru Development portfolio, has not yet assumed charge as the key agencies — Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) — remain with Shivakumar.

Gowda is scheduled to meet Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal on Wednesday.

Ajay Singh, Jewargi MLA and son of former chief minister Dharam Singh, and Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagar MLA, will accompany Gowda.

Sources said Gowda will also urge Venugopal to include Singh and Arshad in the next Cabinet expansion.

Krishna Byre Gowda

Gowda is expected to request Venugopal to prevail upon Shivakumar to hand over BDA and BMRDA to him for better overall 'administration' of Bengaluru.

Gowda will also argue that the Bengaluru Development Minister will need full administrative control over the city's agencies for effective coordination, accountability and transformation of the city, sources said.

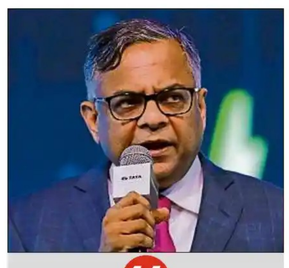
Without oversight of BDA and BMRDA, the minister cannot ensure efficient project implementation, Gowda is likely to point out.

▸ KBG, Page 4

Era of mass hiring over as AI reshapes IT sector: TCS chief

Company to focus on hiring right talent, rules out layoffs

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS



> If the company has half a million employees, the day is not far when the company will have half a million AI agents.
> **N Chandrasekaran**
> TCS Chairman

The era of large-scale hiring in the IT industry is drawing to a close as artificial intelligence (AI) reshapes how companies operate, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Tuesday.

Addressing the company's 31st annual general meeting (AGM) in Mumbai, he said TCS would no longer recruit in the volumes seen in previous years as it increasingly integrates AI into its business.

While ruling out layoffs, he said the company would focus on acquiring the right talent while expanding the use of AI agents.

He predicted that over the next three years, the company would have as many AI agents as human employees.

"The day is not far when TCS will have half a million AI agents," he said, indicating slowdown and selective hiring. However, he expressed optimism that AI will also create new opportunities. "That will be the nature of the transition we have to go through," he said.

The company's total headcount in FY26 declined by 23,460 to 584,519. For Q4FY26, the headcount increased by 2,356 employees. Last year, the company reported layoffs of about 12,260.

Pointing out five opportunities, Chandrasekaran said AI demands a redesign of how end-to-end work gets done, from supply chains to customer journeys. For a global bank, TCS has built an AI platform that manages the entire customer process.

Talking about AI agents, he said they don't stay where they are. They learn, act, drift off course, and can even deteriorate. Getting them set up within an enterprise, training them on specific contexts, monitoring performance, governing compliance, and managing costs at scale will be both a big challenge and a big opportunity for established IT services firms.

"If maintaining applications was the defining annuity of the last era, governing intelligence will be the defining annuity of the next," he further said.

▸ TCS, Page 4

Quickly

10 held for gang-rape

A 41-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped in Channagiri taluk of Davangere district. The incident, which occurred on June 3 night, came to light on Tuesday with the filing of an FIR. Basavapatna police have arrested 10 suspects.
Details on 3B

SW monsoon intensifies

The southwest monsoon intensified in the state on Tuesday. IMD says nearly 85% of Karnataka has been covered by the monsoon. Belagavi district's Yaragatti and Bailhongal taluks received the highest rainfall on Tuesday.
Details on Page 3

Trump blames Iran for helicopter attack

United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday blamed Iran for downing an American military helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz and said the US "must" respond.
Details on Page 13

ATF rates up 10% in fixed pricing rollout

AFT prices were raised by 10% on Tuesday as state-owned fuel retailers rolled out a price stabilisation regime, offering domestic airlines a fixed fuel rate for up to three years.
Details on Page 14

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Karnataka PHCs struggle with staff crunch, medicine shortage

Over 1,000 Community Health Officer posts vacant in the state

BENGALURU, DHNS

Over 1,000 Community Health Officer (CHO) posts are vacant in Karnataka, along with 37% of primary health officers, 27% of medical officers, and 67% of staff nurse posts.

Speaking at a session on politics, polycrisis, platforms and partnerships at the national conference on 'Bringing Evidence into Public Health Policy (EPHP) 2026', Action for Equity Co-Founder Dr Akshay Dinesh said: "We have witnessed that as simple as paracetamol is being prescribed to buy from private medical shops in many PHCs across the state."

The former health minister was supposed to fix this problem in February, but it persists.

Dr Dinesh, whose organisation fights for equity and public health in the state, spoke on the ordeals of communities in the state, including the Jenu Kurubas of Nagarahole, people around the industrial factories in Koppal, and the struggles of Muslim women rolling tobacco for meagre wages in Davangere.

A primary health centre at Rajarajeshwari Nagar. DH FILE PHOTO

CARE DEFICIT

- PHCs reportedly lack even basic medicines like paracetamol, forcing patients to buy from private pharmacies.
- Experts say the staffing and supply crisis persist despite earlier government assurances.
- Vulnerable communities in Nagarahole, Koppal, and Davangere are among the worst affected.
- Health experts flag rising global health risks driven by climate change, conflict and supply chain disruptions.
- Inequality is identified as a key driver of poor health outcomes.
- Calls made for stronger institutions, centralised drug procurement, and better regulatory systems.
- Experts stress coordinated, multi-departmental action for an effective public health system.

Speaking at the event, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, former chief scientist at the World Health Organisation (WHO) and currently the chair at MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, said: "Global threat to health of the general population is on a rise, especially with the direct impact of climate change and conflict zones and the indirect impact of food supply chains. Inequality is at the heart of it."

She also added that state governments must focus on the money being spent on urban infrastructure, transport and environment and its impact on health both positively and negatively.

Dr Soumya urged the states to strengthen institutions by investing in research and institute a centralised supply for drugs and drug-regulatory bodies.

Health coordination

Prof K Srinath Reddy, Chancellor of the Public Health Foundation of India and Institute of Public Health Sciences, emphasised the need for multi-secretarial functioning within the government to strengthen healthcare systems at both the national and state levels.

Unified purpose

"When the public purpose is the same, multiple departments and organisations, including private organisations, should come together to achieve it.

"The problem arises when there is a lack of proper definition of public purpose," he noted.

43% of property tax target collected in two months

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's five city corporations collected Rs 2,932.94 crore in property tax in the first two months of the current financial year, accounting for 43.53% of the annual revenue target.

The early surge in collections was driven largely by the 5% rebate offered in April and May, a period when property tax payments are typically highest.

However, the collection during April–May this year was only 1.2% higher compared to the same period last year, according to official data.

The corporations also managed to recover dues from nearly 1.6 lakh defaulters, who together paid Rs 167.17 crore in pending property tax. Despite this, 3.6 lakh defaulters still owe Rs 609.32 crore, officials said.

Annual decline in triple-riding cases, but night violations persist

AI cameras cut daytime offences, say traffic police

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

While annual data from the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) shows a marked fall in recorded triple-riding offences after a 2024 peak, the city continues to see dangerous night-time surges linked to mass celebrations and high-spirited revelry.

Figures show 1,17,738 cases of triple-riding in 2023, rising to a peak of 1,59,485 in 2024 before falling to 1,10,917 in 2025 and 59,851 so far in 2026.

"The overall decline from the 2024 high follows the rollout of AI-enabled cameras and targeted special enforcement drives that deter daytime violators. However, late-night incidents, often on weekends or after big sporting wins, remain a problem," a senior traffic police officer said.

Traffic personnel on the ground said most violators fall in the 18-35 age group.

Hotspots include South Division neighbourhoods such as BTM Layout, HSR Layout and Koramangala, as well as East Division areas like Indiranagar and MG Road.

These areas have a concentration of colleges, paying guest accommodations and pubs.

Peak hours are typically 10 pm to 2 am, when riders assume surveillance is lax and sometimes ride under the influence.

During the recent Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) IPL victory celebrations, police seized 75 vehicles overnight for wheelies and triple-riding, showing how collective euphoria prompts risky behaviour despite stricter monitoring.

A recent viral clip from BTM Layout showed three postgraduate doctors riding pillion on a scooter, one drinking beer and using the bottle to mimic indicator gestures, drawing public criticism and dismay on X.

Peak hours between 10 pm and 2 am see riders often assuming lax surveillance, with instances of riding under the influence reported. DH FILE PHOTO

Illusion of safety

Suguna M, a city-based psychologist and counsellor, explained why young people make such dangerous choices.

"Many young people and professionals suffer from a mindset called the 'illusion of safety'. They honestly believe that accidents only happen to other people, not to them. When they experience a sudden rush of relief or happiness like passing a major exam or winning a cricket match, the emotional part of their brain completely takes over. When they are in a group, they lose their individual sense of responsibility. Triple-riding or doing stunts becomes a way to show off or look cool to friends. They completely forget that they are risking three lives at once," she said.

The hotspots

- BTM Layout, HSR Layout, Koramangala (all South Division); Indiranagar and MG Road (both East Division).
- These areas have a high concentration of colleges, paying guest (PG) accommodations and pubs.

250 gelatin sticks, 50 detonators seized in raid on granite quarry

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have seized explosives, allegedly stored without authorisation, during a raid on a granite quarry on the city's eastern outskirts.

During the raid on June 5 at Venkateshwara Granites and Crusher in Yarappanahalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, police recovered 250 gelatin sticks and 50 detonators.

Five suspects, including quarry owner Venkataramana Reddy, have been booked.

A senior police officer said the raid followed a tip off and they uncovered explosives stored in violation of safety and regulatory norms.

Police have sent the seized materials for examination and are verifying whether the quarry had the required licences and permissions to procure, transport and store explosives used for mining and blasting.

A case has been registered under Section 9B(1)(b) of the Explosives Act, Section 5 of the Explosive Substances Act, and Rule 7 of the Explosive Rules. Further investigation is underway.

"During questioning, three workers — Vikas, Thohid and Sandeep — told police that explosives, including detonators, were being used for blasting rocks at the quarry on the instructions of quarry owner, Venkataramana Reddy.

"Crusher supervisor Lokesh Reddy admitted that blasting operations were being carried out during night hours without obtaining the required licence or implementing mandatory safety measures. They were aware that the storage and use of explosives in such conditions could endanger public safety and property, but continued the activity without bothering," a senior officer from the Avalahalli police station told *DH*.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Graduates' Day Celebration: Inauguration by Dr Sharanaprakash R Patil; Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, KR Road; 8 am.

Seminar on 'Constitutional Safeguards and Social Transformation in Ccontemporary India': Inauguration by Ramesh Babu; Jnanajyothi Auditorium, Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University; 10 am.

Lecture on 'The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Mystery: Can It Be Solved?: Speakers Ammar Al-Chalabi, Dr Prabha S Chandra, and Dr A Nalini; Nimhans, Hosur Road; 3 pm.

International Archives Week: Workshop on 'Archiving', organised by the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA); Apoorva, Ground Floor, No 259, 4th Cross, RMV 4th Stage, Sanjaynagar; 3 pm.

CULTURAL

Youth Music Festival: Veena recital by MK Sridevi and Carnatic vocal concert by Shraddha Kote; Bangalore Gayana Samaja, KR Road; 5.15 pm.

Play 'Aparidhi': Written by Rani P Vishwanath; Performed by Nancompany; Directed by Surabhi Vashishtha; Chiguru, Kusumaale–Girish Karnad Kannada Drama Writing Fellowship, Bhasha Kendra and Samagata Foundation; Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Anjanadri Layout, Konanakunte; 7.30 pm.

Play 'Madhyama Vyayoga': Written by Bhasa; Performed by Aayaama; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

26th Year of Pravachana Vahini: Discourse on 'Vidura Neeti; Cultural Hall, Sri Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhakta Mandali Trust, Ragigudda, Jayanagar 9th Block; 6.30 pm.

South Corpn reclaims Rs 2-cr property in JP Nagar

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) on Tuesday reclaimed encroached property worth Rs 2 crore in JP Nagar.

Officials said the property, located in KSRTC Layout, was reserved for a public park, but illegal sheds had been built on the area, prompting complaints from citizens.

"Following complaints from the public that this area had been encroached upon by unidentified individuals, officials inspected the site and cleared the encroachment," the BSCC said in a statement.

The property spans over 1,495 sqft and is valued around Rs 2 crore.

St Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) inaugurated its 30th PGDM batch (2026–28) on June 1. (R-L) Dr Rajiv Noronha, Dean; Rev Dr Daniel Fernandes, Rector and President of the Bangalore Jesuit Education Society; Sreekanth K Arimanithaya, CEO of Xarpie Labs; Rev Dr Roshan David Pereira, Director, SJIM; and Rev Fr Prashant D'Souza, Finance Officer, were present.

RWH demand surges as monsoon nears

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

More households are adopting rainwater harvesting and recharge pits as groundwater levels decline, with the BWSSB offering instalment schemes to boost uptake. Well diggers and installers now report 2–3 orders a month amid rising awareness.

Public interest in rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems has grown sharply over the past few years, with enquiries rising ahead of the monsoon, officials and service providers said.

From going months without enquiries, well diggers and RWH installers now receive at least two to three orders a month.

"Awareness has definitely increased over the last few years. Earlier, only new houses would install such systems because of the rules. But now, even older houses are showing interest in installing such systems," said Kempanna, a professional well digger.

Enquiries have risen further over the past two months.

"I have completed at least three such projects every month in the past year. While demand for digging wells is lower due to space constraints, many are interested in getting RWH systems and recharge pits," said Raghupathi C, an RWH installer and professional well digger.

With groundwater levels declining, many households face dry borewells every summer, increasing dependence on Cauvery water and driving interest in rainwater harvesting.

Under the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) rules, houses built on plots larger than 2,400 sqft must have an RWH system, while all new constructions are required to include one.

Many households, however, continue to pay penalties instead of installing the systems, citing space constraints and other reasons. The BWSSB collects nearly Rs 3 crore a month through such penalties.

The BWSSB is assisting households with installations and recently announced a scheme to help penalty-paying households install RWH systems.

"Many of them have said space is a problem. But with new technology, RWH systems can be installed even in small spaces. So, we formulated the initiative where we will help the households paying the penalty install the RWH system and collect the cost in instalments, which will almost equal the monthly penalty," a senior BWSSB official said.

Installation costs start at Rs 5,000 for smaller plots and go up to Rs 10,000 for plots measuring 2,400 sqft.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, along with officials, inspects the market premises on Tuesday. PHOTO: GBA

GBA chief inspects KR Market, orders fire audit

BENGALURU, DHNS: M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), inspected KR Market on Tuesday and directed officials to conduct a fire audit of the historic market.

Rao stressed the need to put adequate safety measures in place to deal with any fire emergency.

"In the event of a fire, it is important to identify emergency exit routes. Firefighting infrastructure, including fire-extinguisher pipelines, must also be installed to contain and douse the flames," he said.

He directed officials to remove encroachments in front of shops and impose fines on violators.

Observing that the market's third floor is underutilised, Rao asked officials to prepare a plan to make effective use of the space.

He suggested that some corporation offices could be accommodated there.

Rao also instructed officials to ensure that cleanliness is maintained at all times and that the market premises are washed regularly.

DH FLAGS ISSUE

Roadblock cleared: Pole removed from busy Domlur stretch

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after *DH* flagged the issue, civic authorities removed the streetlight pole obstructing the middle of Professor UR Rao Road in Domlur, bringing relief to commuters.

The pole had remained in the middle of the white-topped road after widening work, posing a hazard on the busy stretch connecting Domlur and Old Airport Road.

Motorists and two-wheeler riders had complained of having to swerve suddenly to avoid it, particularly during peak hours and at night.

Following the report, authorities dismantled and removed the structure.

However, the support structure remains at the site. A ground worker said it would be cleared soon, restoring the free flow of traffic on the stretch.

The streetlight pole has been removed from Professor UR Rao Road, though its support structure (L) remains and is expected to be cleared soon. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

Fake profile: Case booked

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 33-year-old woman was allegedly harassed online through a fake media account, following which police have booked a case.

On June 3, the complainant, a resident of Jalahalli, found a fake Instagram profile bearing her name along with a derogatory Kannada word.

She alleged that miscreants used her photographs, added her brother's and husband's phone numbers, portraying her as an escort. This caused distress and harassment, the FIR said.

Seeking action against those responsible, the woman urged police to take down the fake account. Police registered a case on June 4 under Section 66C of the Information Technology Act for identity theft.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C

Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	3 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	65%
Sunset (Jun 10)	6:45 pm
Sunrise (Jun 11)	5:53 am
Moonrise	12:42 am
Moonset	01:04 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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28-yr-old technician electrocuted while repairing power line in E-City

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old technician was electrocuted while carrying out maintenance work on a power pole at SBI Junction in Electronics City, officials said.

Bandaru Esudasu was working on an 11-kV power line on June 7 when he allegedly suffered an electric shock and was left hanging from the pole.

Bandaru Esudasu

Fire and emergency personnel and local residents rushed him to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

His family was informed of the incident and they travelled from Andhra Pradesh on Sunday before filing a complaint.

Esudasu had joined GSK Power Tech Pvt Ltd as a contract technician a week earlier and was staying in Rajajinagar with coworkers, police said.

Electronics City police have registered a negligence case against the company, the contractor and Bescom officials for failing to take necessary safety precautions before assigning the work.

The electricity pole at SBI Junction in Electronics City, where the incident occurred on June 7.

Bund roads inside lake area: BDA issues notices to developer

'Why temporary roads shown as permanent ones to new office project?'

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has issued two notices to the Prestige Group, seeking clarification on why temporary bund roads built inside Bellandur lake are being shown as permanent connecting roads leading to the developer's upcoming office space project opposite the water body.

Spread across over 900 acres, the lake is the city's largest and is undergoing a Rs 350-crore rejuvenation process that began in 2021.

As part of the process, BDA constructed diversion drains and temporary bund roads to separate the lake's desilted portion and facilitate silt transportation. It sought clarification from the Prestige Group on displaying these bund roads as permanent roads leading to Prestige Lakeshore Drive project.

The first notice — sent on April 17 — asked the developer to "immediately stop showing bund roads and connection roads" and raised questions about the extensive use of Bellandur lake's images in promoting the property.

The BDA issued the notices after receiving multiple complaints from civic organisations like Kempapura Yemalur Bellandur Institution Association (KYBIA) on the matter. KYBIA has even written to the chief minister in this regard.

A senior BDA engineer said two notices had already been sent to Prestige Group in April and May.

"The first two times, company representatives did not accept the notice, claiming they were not related to the project. We will soon send a notice to a different Prestige office," the engineer said.

'Not our project'

Speaking to *DH*, Juggy Marwaha, CEO and executive director (office), Prestige Group, clarified that the road development proposed around the lakeside of Lakeshore Drive was not part of developments by the company.

"These are road-widening projects initiated by Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to ease traffic congestion along ORR. These roads are outside the lake premises. As they lead to our property, GBA reached out to us proposing a public-private partnership, where Prestige Group will be responsible for the beautification and maintenance of the road once it is completed," he said.

The company is also working on a public promenade in the vicinity in collaboration with GBA.

"The objective of these initiatives is to work collaboratively to enhance connectivity, improve pedestrian experiences and ease traffic movement in the area, while contributing positively to Bengaluru's evolving urban landscape. Any activities being undertaken within the lake itself are being carried out by the relevant authorities and agencies. Prestige Group is not involved in those works," Marwaha added.

The project's brochures, accessed by *DH*, show three roads opposite the property set to be developed in three phases. The first phase is dotted along the Bellandur Lake road, which is the property's main entrance. The other two phases focus on roads adjacent to either side of the lake.

As part of the rejuvenation process, BDA has constructed diversion drains and temporary bund roads to separate the desilted portion of the lake and facilitate transportation of silt. DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

The brochures of the project show three roads opposite the property, which are set to be developed in three phases. The first phase is dotted along the Bellandur lake road, which is the main entrance of the property. The other two phases focus on roads adjacent to either side of the lake.

All devpts will follow NGT norms: GBA chief

GBA chief commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the proposed initiative aims to beautify area around Bellandur Lake, rather than ease traffic congestion in the area. "The focus is on beautification. Road widening will be carried out only if necessary and permissible. All work around the lake will strictly follow National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines," he said.

Students head back home after school amid heavy rain in Mangaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

Rains persist as monsoon intensifies in state

Orange alert issued for DK, Kodagu, Udupi districts

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Belagavi district's Yaragatti and Bailhongal taluks received highest rainfall on Tuesday with Kadabi village in Yaragatti getting 123 mm followed by Bailwad and Chivatgundi in Bailhongal receiving 120.5 mm and 112.5 mm.

According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, nearly 32% of the state received rainfall on Tuesday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued orange alert for Wednesday for Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada and Kodagu districts, while Bagalkot, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Shivamogga districts got yellow alert.

IMD says nearly 85% of Karnataka has been covered by south western monsoon. On Tuesday, rains lashed parts of Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Kodagu, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Dakshina Kannada districts.

The heavy rains that lashed parts of Belthangady in Dakshina Kannada district resulted in an under-construction mini-bridge being washed away, snapping connectivity between Ujire and Kanyadi.

The heavy rains that lashed on Monday over parts of Belagavi district resulted in heavy damages to houses and fields.

Ten houses were completely damaged due to rains on Monday in Bailhongal. This apart, 5 houses suffered minor damages. Over 300 houses in the taluk reported rainwater gushing inside.

An under-construction bridge between Bailhongal and Munavalli was washed away due to heavy rains in the region.

Belagavi-Bailhongal road that was closed for traffic on Monday afternoon due to overflowing stream was re-opened on Tuesday.

Kalaburagi and Yadgir received showers. Skies opened up towards the evening for about 15 minutes.

The compound wall of a goverment school in Almatti of Bagalkot district collapsed following heavy rain for over one hour. The compound wall was constructed in 2023 and the school had shifted to the new building four years ago. The soil on the school's playground was washed away by rainwater.

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds lashed several parts of Belthangady taluk in Dakshina Kannada district. A temporary bridge constructed across a stream was washed away by rain, cutting off much of the connectivity with Ujire and nearby places.

Gusty winds accompanying the rain also uprooted and damaged several arecanut and rubber trees.

Power supply was disrupted in rural areas, while mobile towers operated by private telecom companies remained non-functional for some time, causing inconvenience to customers.

Kalaburagi received first monsoon showers of this year on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Kodagu homestay death turns spotlight on compliance with norms

K S GIRISH
MADIKERI, DHNS

Even before Kodagu district could recover from recent incidents of the alleged sexual assault of a foreign woman at a homestay near Kutta and the death of a tourist who was caught in a fight between two elephants at Dubare — a woman tourist died of suspected suffocation in the bathroom of a homestay recently. Such incidents have dealt a significant blow to the district's tourism industry.

A homestay owner on the condition of anonymity said many of these accidents could be avoided if homestays strictly complied with regulations. However, he alleged that a majority of homestays violate the prescribed norms.

The Tourism Department imposes around nine conditions while granting permission to operate a homestay. Licences are issued only after applicants agree to comply with them. During inspections, establishments are generally found to be complying with the rules. However, violations often begin once the licence is obtained, the owner claimed.

The tourism department imposes several conditions while granting permission to operate a homestay. PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

One of the conditions prohibits the use of gas geysers in homestays. The rules say homestay owners will be held directly responsible if any accident occurs due to use of gas geysers. Despite this, many homestays continue to rely heavily on gas geysers, he said.

Some homestay owners argue that gas geysers are essential in Kodagu's weather conditions. They point out that the region experiences cloudy weather and rainfall for nearly six months of the year, making firewood difficult to obtain and reducing effectiveness of solar water heater.

During monsoon, uprooting of trees frequently damage electricity lines, resulting in disruption in power supply. In such circumstances, they contend, gas geysers become a necessity.

Coorg Homestay Association vice president Ambekal Naveen said tourism department officials should conduct inspections of homestays to ensure compliance with regulations. Homestay owners, on their part, should adopt alternative methods for heating water, he said.

A large number of homestays in Kodagu are operating without licences. Moreover, even homestays with permits are not being inspected regularly. The vacant post of deputy director in tourism department and staff shortage are cited as reasons for lack of monitoring.

Members of the public have urged the government to take immediate steps to strengthen the department in Kodagu.

Department incharge deputy director Shashidhar said, "We are currently inspecting all homestays. Owners are being strictly instructed to ensure police verification of labourers from outside the state. They are also being directed to replace gas geysers with other methods for heating water. If any violation of these regulations is detected, licence will be kept under suspension."

Bridge collapses in Karwar

KARWAR (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS: Kadawada bridge, constructed across the Kali river to connect Sunkeri and Kadawada villages in the city's jurisdiction 64 years ago, partially collapsed late on Monday night.

Kadawada's residents said the bridge's slab collapsed soon after a few local men who were fishing under the bridge left the place. It would have been a disaster if the bridge had collapsed a few moments earlier, they added.

Bridge closed

Tahsildar Nishchal Noronha said the bridge has been made out of bounds for people.

The bridge, constructed in 1962, connects Karwar and Kadawada. The movement of vehicles had been stopped on the bridge after a new bridge was built next to it in 2013.

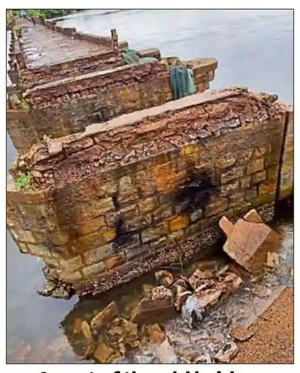
Fishing platform

However, the fishing activities were being carried out at the old bridge.

Sushanth Bhovi, a resident of Kadawada, said, "The old bridge was a platform for traditional fishing for 108 families of the village. Fishes were caught using chimney lamps when the river level receded at night under the bridge. Now, the bridge has been closed and it will impact the fishing."

Village leader Uday Bhovi said there was a flood in 1958 and the whole village had submerged under the water.

Later, the bridge was sanctioned and it was conducive for the development of the village, he recalled.



A part of the old bridge, connecting Karwar and Kadawada, has collapsed. DH PHOTO/GANAPATHI HEGDE

School edu dept to hire computer science teachers for govt schools

BENGALURU, DHNS

Having decided to impart computer science education to students in government schools from class one, the department of school education and literacy is now moving to recruit dedicated teachers for the subject.

As many as 2,500 Information Technology (IT) teachers are slated to be recruited for the current academic year. Commissioner for School Education Vikas Kishor Suralkar said that the department would recruit full-time teachers against the sanctioned posts that are currently lying vacant across schools in the state.

"We have a number of vacancies against the sanctioned posts. Now, we are creating a separate cadre for IT teachers in the department, and the C&R Rules will be amended to allow the department to recruit these teachers," said Suralkar.

The eligibility criteria for IT teachers will be published soon, said officials in the department. In fact, the department has given the nod for the recruitment of engineering graduates as graduate primary teachers for students from classes six to eight. The recruitment rules have been accordingly amended to allow engineering graduates to teach subjects like mathematics and science at government schools and colleges. In fact, the C&R rules were amended in 2021 to allow engineering graduates to appear for the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET).

"We have since had quite a few engineering graduates clearing TET, many of whom can be considered for the posts of IT teachers," said a senior department official.

The department has fixed the salary range for IT teachers between Rs 44,425 and Rs 83,700 per month.

Suralkar, however, was quick to add that the IT teachers would not be recruited only for Karnataka Public Schools. "We will depute them to all those schools that are in need of IT teachers," he added.

VB-G RAM G: Rs 5,709-cr interim allocation to state

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday announced an interim allocation of Rs 5,709.09 crore to Karnataka under the newly launched Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Grameen) (VB-G RAM G) scheme for current fiscal.

Chouhan, who chaired a video conferencing meeting with state rural development ministers to review the implementation of the scheme, said the allocation was made to ensure a smooth transition from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The minister said while 26 states have made the necessary budgetary provisions aligned with 'Viksit Bharat – Grameen Bharat' objective, 4 — Karnataka, Jharkhand, Telangana and Mizoram — are yet to do so.

He urged Karnataka to issue a state-level notification for the rollout of the scheme and said he would personally write to chief ministers of the 4 states. The VB-G RAM G scheme is scheduled to come into effect on July 1. Several Congress-ruled states, including Karnataka, have opposed the new scheme.

The minister has stated that revised schedule offers little benefit to passengers and impacts passenger traffic.

Khandre seeks restoration of Bengaluru-Bidar flight timings

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Eshwar B Khandre has urged Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil to intervene and ensure that Star Air reverts to the earlier schedule of its Bengaluru-Bidar-Bengaluru flight service.

In a letter addressed to the two leaders, Khandre expressed his disappointment with the airline's decision to alter the timings of the flights from June 10. He said the previous schedule, under which the 84-seater aircraft departed Bengaluru at 6.30 am, reached Bidar at 7.45 am, and returned to Bengaluru by 9.30 am, had proven to be highly convenient for passengers, including business travellers, tourists and residents of Bidar and neighbouring districts of Karnataka and Telangana.

According to Khandre, the Bidar Airport, which operates out of an Indian Air Force facility, had obtained the necessary approvals from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the earlier schedule. However, Star Air has now revised the timings, with the flight set to depart Bengaluru at 12.30 pm, arrive in Bidar at 1.45 pm, leave Bidar at 2.30 pm and reach Bengaluru at 3.30 pm.

He argued that the revised schedule would offer little benefit to passengers and impact passenger traffic.

Artistes invited to register for ICCR international cultural programmes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Applications have been invited from eligible artistes and cultural troupes in Bengaluru Urban district for registration under an initiative stemming from a cultural, arts and education cooperation agreement between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Karnataka government.

Registered artistes and troupes may get opportunities to participate in international cultural festivals and programmes organised through ICCR, providing a platform to showcase their talent globally.

Interested artistes and troupes can download the prescribed application form from the Department of Kannada and Culture website and submit it, along with the required documents, to the Office of the Assistant Director, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road, Bengaluru-560002, by June 12.

For more information, call 080-22213530, an official release said.

TUMKUR-II RE TRANSMISSION LIMITED
(100% wholly owned subsidiary of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited)
B-9, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI-110 016

NOTICE

(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003)

1. **TUMKUR-II RE TRANSMISSION LIMITED,** having its Registered Office at **B-9, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI-110016,** which is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi under Sub- Section (1) of Section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Transmission Licence in respect of the transmission lines, sub-stations and other assets, the details of which are given:-

Sl. No	Name of transmission assets and location	Line Length/ Capacity	Estimate Completion Cost	Schedule COD	Remarks
1	Tumkur-II–Madhugiri 400kV (Quad) D/C line	~100 km	Rs.1249 Cr	29.05.2029	
2	Tumkur-II 400 kV PS	• 400/220 kV, 500 MVA, ICTs – 6 Nos. • ±300MVAR STATCOM – 1 No. with switching arrangement of 2x125 MVAr bus reactors • 400kV STATCOM Bay:1 No. • 400 kV ICT bays – 6 Nos. • 400kV line bays – 2 Nos. • 220 kV ICT bays – 6 Nos. • 220 kV line bays – 6 Nos. • 220kV Bus Sectionalizer - 3 set • 220 kV Bus Coupler (BC) Bay – 3 Nos. • 220 kV Transfer Bus Coupler (TBC) Bay – 3 Nos.			
3	Madhugiri 400 kV SS	400kV line bays – 2 Nos. (To be terminated at existing bays)			

2. Complete application and other documents filed before the Commission are available on the web site of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries for access by any person. The application can also be inspected at the office of the Company at C/o ED (Commercial & RC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Floor No. 02, Tower-01, IRCON International Tower, Plot No. 16, Institutional Area, Sector-32, Gurgaon-122003 or Office of the Commission in accordance with the procedure specified by the Commission.
3. Objections or suggestions, if any, be filed before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th Floors, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029, with a copy of the objection(s)/suggestion(s) to the applicant or its authorized agent, within 15 days of the publication of the notice in the newspaper.

PG/CC/Notice-24(SPV)/Advt-28/26-27

Place: New Delhi
Date: 10.06.2026

Project In-charge,
Tumkur-II RE Transmission Limited

Safety an afterthought on shoots: Models

The death of a model while working on location for a fashion shoot has raised concerns about hazardous working conditions

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The death of a model while scouting for a shoot location in Kerala has highlighted the unsafe conditions models and crew work under while shooting campaigns or advertisements.

Irene Augustin was just 21 when a photographer demanded she scale a slippery rock to get the perfect shot for a bridal fashion campaign. "I was dressed in a lehenga that weighed 10 kg. I tried taking off my shoes to climb the rock, but the photographer insisted I climb in heels and accused me of being unprofessional. I asked him to show me how it's done. That angered him further, and he shut down the shoot for the day. Later, I ordered a plate of French fries to my hotel room and wept uncontrollably behind closed doors," shares the Bengalurean who has worked with numerous Indian and global brands over the years.

She recalls that none of the crew had her back, though it was clear the photographer was in the wrong. "It is hard to speak up on set because you will be 'cancelled' or labelled 'difficult'," notes the model, who moved to Paris five years ago.

Freezing temperatures

36-year-old Mitali Rannorey, who has been working as a model for 15 years, remembers shooting in freezing temperatures in the Mediterranean, clad in nothing but swimwear, with "sea urchins in close proximity". She notes that the onus is on the model to speak up if he or she is uncomfortable in any situation.

"Production teams usually send someone ahead to do a recce and assess the terrain and map out what is expected of the model. This helps them identify potential hazards beforehand," she explains, adding that she hopes going forward, production teams will give more priority to safety and take accidents more seriously.

While fashion stylist Aryan Gaurav Naidu has never faced any danger in his career, he is aware that safety is not always a priority. "For any shoot involving a tricky location, I always make it a point to ask for a clear breakdown of the safety measures in place before we proceed. It is a habit I have made my own, regardless of how big or small the production is," he shares.

Aryan Gaurav Naidu (in cap) at a recent shoot for a brand campaign in Udupi.

In Western countries, on-set safety is not a "courtesy extended by the production". It is regulated and enforced by authorities, and everyone takes it seriously. In India, we are still catching up, he says.

Ambarish Sonari, who has been working as a stylist for 12 years, notes that in India, "safety briefings are rare. Emergency protocols are almost unheard of. We just get on with it, and hope the day goes smoothly." With global brands, "safety is built into the production from the start. There are designated personnel, clear protocols, and an understanding that the shoot does not come before the people on it. Here, the priority is almost always the output, the timeline, the creative, the client".

Insist on a license

Aryan believes that ensuring all production houses are licensed will make a huge difference. "Second, before any shoot is locked in, formal clearance should be obtained from the relevant location authorities. This cannot be optional. And thirdly, models, whether represented by an agency or working independently, must be fully informed about the location and any risks involved before they step on set," he states. He adds that should anything go wrong, the client and the production house should be held responsible. "They should face heavy penalties, and their registrations should be blacklisted. Until there are real consequences, nothing will change," he offers.

However, fashion and model consultant Prasad Bidapa points out that a majority of shoots are carried out smoothly. "One tragic incident should certainly prompt reflection and fact-finding, but it should not lead to broad conclusions before all circumstances are fully understood. Based on the information currently available, I would be cautious about using this unfortunate incident to indict an entire industry," he states.

WHAT HAPPENED

On May 28, Divyanshu Joshi, a 26-year-old model, drowned in an abandoned quarry filled with water in Ernakulam, Kerala, while scouting for a location for a campaign shoot for Kartik Research, the brand he worked for. Since the death, the brand has faced major public backlash. They have since postponed their show at the Paris Fashion Week, scheduled for later this month.

TENT CINEMA TO BALOCH TRAILS

IFA unlocks city's hidden history

The foundation opens its 30-year-old vault to mark International Archives Week

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Rows of steel racks fill the storeroom of the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA), holding records of the nearly 950 projects it has supported over the past 30 years. *Metrolife* revisits a few that explored Bengaluru's past and changing character, placing local communities at the heart of research and engagement.

Egyptian block

Jayanagar resident Gayatri Chandrashekar found that the locality's 'Egyptian Block' has no link to Egypt. Instead, it traces its origins to a family from Balochistan, whose descendants still run an optical business in Bengaluru, says Menaka Rodriguez, executive director, IFA. Ghouse Khan Tareen, working with the Imperial Police services, was transferred to the Mysore State in 1918. His son later acquired large tracts of agricultural land, a good portion of it stretching from Patalamma Temple to Madhavan Park, and distributed them among his seven children. He sold more plots in what is now Jayanagar 3rd Block, where rows of houses later emerged. The area came to be known as Tareena Block.

Estate diaries

Rustum Bagh is a quiet residential enclave off Old Airport Road. It was once a vast estate where the Kothavala family kept poultry, cattle and pets, as resident Mehar Zariwala discovered. The family bought the land in 1935 from Maharani Divyeshwari Devi of the Mysore royal family and named it after their father.

Gemini Ganesan bought a part of it to build a film studio, though the project never came to fruition, shares Menaka. A hospital now stands on the site. The rest was developed into the Rustum Bagh Layout, which includes a deaf aid society.

Through a series of artistic engagements, the Klatsch Collective personified Mohan Building, a Chickpete landmark dating to 1909.

Cinema shapes life

When it comes to Bengaluru's cinematic heritage, Laggere is not spoken of as widely as Gandhi Nagar. Cinema is woven into everyday life in this working-class suburb. It is evident from the film iconography around Aladamara Circle to Akash Cinemas, a single-screen theatre that evolved from a tent cinema. It is home to Kanteerava Studios, the memorials of Dr Rajkumar and Ambareesh, and many who work behind the scenes on film sets. Its fan culture is sustained by clubs and individuals such as Vishnupriya Krishnappa, a living archive of Vishnuvardhan's legacy. Eshwari R explored how cinema serves as a source of leisure, resistance and community-building in Laggere.

Mohan's future

Few buildings in Chickpet have reinvented themselves as often as the Mohan Building since it was built in 1909. It has served as a home, taluk kacheri, complex for silk traders, police station, and lodge. As ownership changed hands, so did its name, from Ahmed Building to Mohan Building. Intrigued by its many lives, Klatsch Collective personified the dilapidated structure in a project titled 'Myself Mohan 1909'. The local community hopes it can continue as a mall or theatre, says Menaka.

Tall promises

When Bengaluru's first skyscraper, the Public Utility Building, opened on M G Road in the 1970s, it loomed so large in the public imagination that some likened it to King Kong arriving in the city, advertising professional and filmmaker Mahesh S found. For many, it was also a place of firsts — buying denim, spotting celebrities or holding hands with their lover. Today, the landmark stands largely silent. "For people who opened shops here, it became a promise that didn't quite work out," he says. But Mahesh saw the building as a site that "stimulates imagination". "It felt like an elderly person left behind, a metaphor for a changing city," he says. He anonymised it as Building No 37, and rolled out a fictional film and photobook inspired by it.

Until June 12, 11 am, at IFA, Sanjaynagar. Entry free. Details on indiaifa.org

Making queer dance floors safer

Aditi has been working as a DJ for a decade. PIC: AARON DAWN

These organisers are building joyful spaces where people can show up as their fullest selves

SHARON NATASHA
TEAM METROLIFE

The right to feel safe in a room full of strangers is something most people take for granted. For Bengaluru's queer community, it is something that has had to be fought for and built from scratch. Across the city's queer event circuit, DJs, therapists and curators are rethinking what it means to host a truly safe space.

"Prioritising safety was non-negotiable," says Spriha, who co-founded the city-based queer party space Girlfriend Girlfriend with Reetz. "It just didn't make sense to have a space without thinking about those things. So we went through all the situations someone might face and came up with safety measures."

That intentionality is something Mo'Homo, a selector and curator who works between Goa and Bengaluru, believes strongly in. "Creating a safer space is absolutely important," they say. "Especially at a time when there is heightened political tension, and people are increasingly speaking up about the lack of safety in public spaces."

For Mo'Homo, safety is built into the architecture of an event itself. From posters plastered across bathrooms and dimly lit corners — "Do not touch or stare at anyone without explicit consent. Read body language. No is never a bad thing. Welcome with love" — to quiet rooms for those overwhelmed by sound and discreet mediators on the floor. "They might be dancing right next to you, but they are safety managers," they explain. For attendees, these support systems are designed to be visible and accessible. The safety managers can be identified through distinctive t-shirts, badges or glowing wristbands, and guests who feel uncomfortable or unwell can approach them at any point, they say.

Rey, a Bengaluru-based therapist and crisis counsellor at Girlfriend Girlfriend, describes the underlying philosophy as one rooted in harm reduction and de-escalation. "As organisers and volunteers, we don't pass judgement. We empathise, understand and try to de-escalate the situation." Central to this approach, Rey says, is consent. "We call in whoever is causing harm and take appropriate action, with decisions based on the consent of the entire team."

"We have a complete zero-tolerance policy for any form of bigotry, assault or harassment," says Spriha, whose events are intentionally exclusive to queer women, trans and non-binary people.

Aditi, who has spent a decade in the music and entertainment industry as a DJ and arts and culture manager, places this moment within a longer cultural lineage. They highlight that the wider clubbing industry modelled its customer care and safety standards after practices developed within queer spaces.

"You could think about how club culture borrowed safety practices from Berlin's queer spaces, where safety is the number one priority. Having fun happens naturally as a result." Rey sees this labour as deeply political. "The people who take on the labour of keeping queer folks safe are queer themselves. At a time when governments are increasingly policing our bodies, it becomes even more important to create spaces where freedom, agency and autonomy can exist openly."

EVENTS

Book discussion
Rohini Mohan will discuss the book 'The Good Reporter' on June 13, 4 pm, at Beku, J P Nagar. To register, visit @beku.blr on Instagram.

Lecture
Azim Premji University will host a talk by Aparajith Ramnath on the rise of engineering as part of its public lecture series on June 13, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

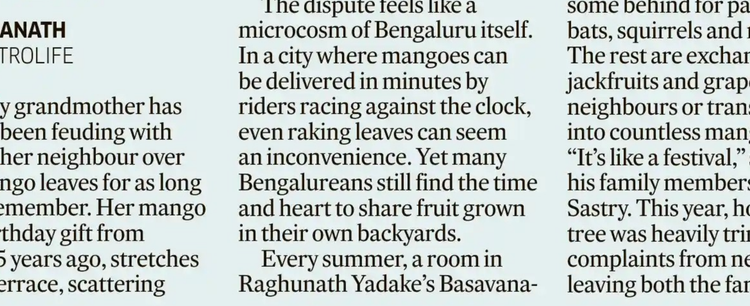
Poetry and culture
The Dravida Bhasha Translators Association and Thodalnudi Children's Magazine will host 'Pancha Dravida Kavi Sangama' on June 14, 10 am at Sree Saraswathi Education Trust, Whitefield. Entry free.

Film screening
Girish Kasaravalli's 'Illi Iralaare Allige Hogalaare' and Natesh Hegde's film 'Pedro' will be screened, followed by a panel discussion with the directors on June 13, 3 pm, at Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road. Tickets on urbanaut.app

Say konnichiwa to Japanese cinema

The Japan Foundation and the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru are bringing a slice of Japan to the city with 'Lights, Camera, Konnichiwa!,' a two-day film screening event on June 13 and 14. The programme will feature six films across different genres: popular dramas 'Oshin,' and 'First Gentleman,' 'Campaign,' a documentary, contemporary romance 'Tremble All You Want,' animated fantasy 'Penguin Highway,' and 'We Make Antiques! Kyoto Rendezvous,' a comedy.

"These films were deliberately curated because they offer a vibrant journey through Japan's history, politics, everyday life, imagination, and cultural traditions, making it well-rounded for new audiences and our regular patrons," says Shingo Hoshino, festival director, Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru.



A still from 'Oshin', one of the movies that will be screened at the fest.

The consul general of Japan will kick off the event, and with more than 250 registrations already, the organisers are expecting a full house of Japanophiles on both days.

June 13, 2 pm onwards and June 14, 11 am onwards, at PES University, Banashankari. Entry free. Register via the official website or Facebook page of the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, or @japan_consulate_bengaluru on Instagram.

Raghunath Yadake's mango tree at his house in Basavanagudi.

Bengaluru's backyard mango economy

In this age of instant delivery, the king of fruits is still forging connections

POORVI SANATH
TEAM METROLIFE

My grandmother has been feuding with her neighbour over fallen mango leaves for as long as I can remember. Her mango tree, a birthday gift from friends 35 years ago, stretches over his terrace, scattering leaves and debris that he considers a daily nuisance. She has repeatedly been forced to trim it, yet every summer, bags of sweet mallika mangoes still find their way to my home.

The dispute feels like a microcosm of Bengaluru itself. In a city where mangoes can be delivered in minutes by riders racing against the clock, even raking leaves can seem an inconvenience. Yet many Bengalureans still find the time and heart to share fruit grown in their own backyards.

Every summer, a room in Raghunath Yadake's Basavanagudi home is filled with hay to welcome mangoes from a tree he nurtured from a discarded seed. The tree yields around 600 fruits each season, though the family deliberately leaves some behind for parakeets, bats, squirrels and monkeys. The rest are exchanged for jackfruits and grapefruits from neighbours or transformed into countless mango dishes. "It's like a festival," says one of his family members, Madhuri Sastry. This year, however, the tree was heavily trimmed after complaints from neighbours, leaving both the family and the wildlife without their annual bounty.

On his farm in Kaggalipura, Arjun Sundar Raju grows Badami, totapuri, raspuri, neelam and Banganapalli mangoes. None are sold. They are shared among relatives or exchanged for vegetables and pomegranates. He describes it as an "old-school mindset" where money recedes into the background. While he acknowledges the privilege of owning farmland, he finds greater joy in harvesting and sharing than in selling.

For Rupalini Sastry, mango trees are repositories of memory. In her community near the airport, mangoes are distributed among neighbours while children sneak fruits from the branches overhead. "The trees give them a childhood," she says. Elsewhere, on her family farm, varieties chosen by her parents continue to bear fruit long after their passing. She reminisces fondly that her mother got to taste the first of the mangoes she had planted before her passing.

As Arjun puts it, "You feel so happy about the mangoes, and you just want to share that happiness."

Woman gang-raped in D'gere, act filmed; 10 arrested

Suspects lured survivor by offering bike ride to her hometown

DAVANGERE, DHNS

A 41-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped in the Basavapatna police station limits of Channagiri taluk in Davangere district. The incident, which occurred on June 3 night, came to light on Tuesday with the filing of an FIR.

The Basavapatna police have arrested 10 suspects, including a minor, on charges of gang-rape, shooting a video, taking photos and abetment to the crime and have intensified the investigation.

Those arrested are Chataki Nagaraj, Istree Nagaraj, Madhu, Arjuna, Basavanth, Kundoora Maruti, Manu, Jogi Sunila and Pradeep, residents of Channagiri taluk.

A motorbike and a mobile phone belonging to the suspects have been confiscated.

All the suspects, except one, are aged between 19 and 30 years.

The woman, a daily-wage worker, was fed up with her alcoholic husband.

In her complaint, the survivor stated that on June 3 night, she was walking alone from her husband's house to her hometown when the suspects took her on their bike offering to drop her off at her hometown.

They offered her a soft drink laced with sedatives without her knowledge, the complaint stated. Later, they took her to a farm land where a group of men raped her. She woke up the following morning and reached her hometown.

The victim's family filed a complaint on Monday night after they came to know about the photos and videos of the woman being circulated on social media.

A case has been registered against the suspects under The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Gang Rape Act.

Police sources stated that the woman was not able to recall what happened to her on June 3 night in the farm land after she had a soft drink laced with sedatives. She realised what had happened after the photos and videos went viral on social media.

Superintendent of police H T Shekhar told *DH* that the incident came to light after the suspects shared videos and photos of the woman on social media. The police immediately took the 10 suspects into custody. The investigation is underway.

Additional superintendent of police Parameshwara Hegde and DySP Rudrappa Ujjinikoppa visited the Basavapatna police station and inspected the crime spot.

Dr Sudhir K Jain conferred CM Nagaraj Award for excellence in academic leadership

Dr. SUDHIR K JAIN
Padma Shri Awardee, Former Director, IIT
Former Vice-Chancellor, BH
to receive the prestigio
CMN FOUNDATION TRUST (R)
Dr. SUDHIR K JAIN
ONE LAKH RUPEES ONLY

(Left to right) Mamatha Shashikiran, Joint Secretary, Thirupathi Education Society; CN Shashikiran, Trustee, CMN Foundation Trust; Dr Vasudev K Aatre, Padma Vibhushan awardee and former Scientific Advisor to the Raksha Mantri; Smt Chitrakala Nagaraj, Chairperson, Thirupathi Education Society; Dr Sudhir K Jain, recipient of the CM Nagaraj Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership 2026; Dr HP Khincha, former Vice-Chancellor, VTU; and Dr KNB Murthy, Chief Mentor, CMNIT, at the award ceremony in Bengaluru

Well-wishers and family members of late Sri CM Nagaraj, former Mayor of Bengaluru, established the CMN Foundation Trust to support the education of deserving rural students. To honour his legacy, the trust instituted the annual CM Nagaraj Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership, presented to an eminent academic leader who has made a significant contribution to education. The awardee is selected by a Search-cum-Selection Committee chaired by Prof H P Khincha, former Vice-Chancellor of VTU, Belagavi.

Mr Shashikiran, trustee of the foundation, furthered this vision by establishing the CMN Institute of Technology (CMNIT) under the Thirupathi Education Society as a tribute to his father.

CMN Foundation Trust, in association with CMNIT, recently presented the CM Nagaraj Award for Excellence in Academic Leadership 2026 to Padma Shri awardee Dr Sudhir K Jain, former Director of IIT Gandhinagar, former Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University and former Professor at IIT Kanpur. The award, which carries a plaque and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, was presented at a recent ceremony held at The Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru.

The award was presented by Padma Vibhushan awardee and scientist Dr Vasudev K Aatre in the presence of Smt Chitrakala Nagaraj, Mr Shashikiran, Prof H P Khincha, Prof K N Balasubramanya Murthy and a gathering of educationists, academicians, industry professionals and students.

DH CNM Foundation Trust

Speaking on the occasion, Dr V K Aatre said the award had gained stature through its acceptance by Dr Sudhir K Jain and appreciated Mr Shashikiran's efforts in carrying forward his father's educational legacy through CMNIT.

Accepting the award, Dr Sudhir K Jain thanked the selection committee and paid tribute to late Sri CM Nagaraj for his contribution to education through institutions that helped educate more than 1,00,000 students between 1968 and 2008.

Smt Chitrakala Nagaraj said the award and institution established in CM Nagaraj's name would help preserve his legacy and inspire future generations to serve society through education.

Mr Shashikiran expressed gratitude for the opportunity to give back to society in line with his father's values and acknowledged the contributions of teachers, parents and students associated with the group's institutions.

The programme also featured a presentation by Prof Khincha on the award selection process and concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof Kumar, Principal of CMNIT.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Police mandate ID checks at liquor establishments

To keep copy of documents for age verification

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after Home Minister Priyank Kharge warned pubs, bars and liquor-serving establishments of strict action for facilitating underage drinking, Director General and Inspector General of Police (Head of Police Force) M A Saleem on Tuesday issued a detailed circular mandating stringent age-verification measures across Karnataka.

The circular directs all police commissioners, range inspectors general and district superintendents of police to immediately enforce a "No ID, No Entry" policy at pubs, breweries, bars, clubs, lounges, restaurants and all other establishments serving alcohol.

According to the police circular, all liquor-serving establishments must verify government-issued identity documents, including Aadhaar card, voter ID, passport, driving licence or PAN card, before granting entry or serving alcohol. It has also advised establishments to retain copies of identity documents for future verification whenever necessary.

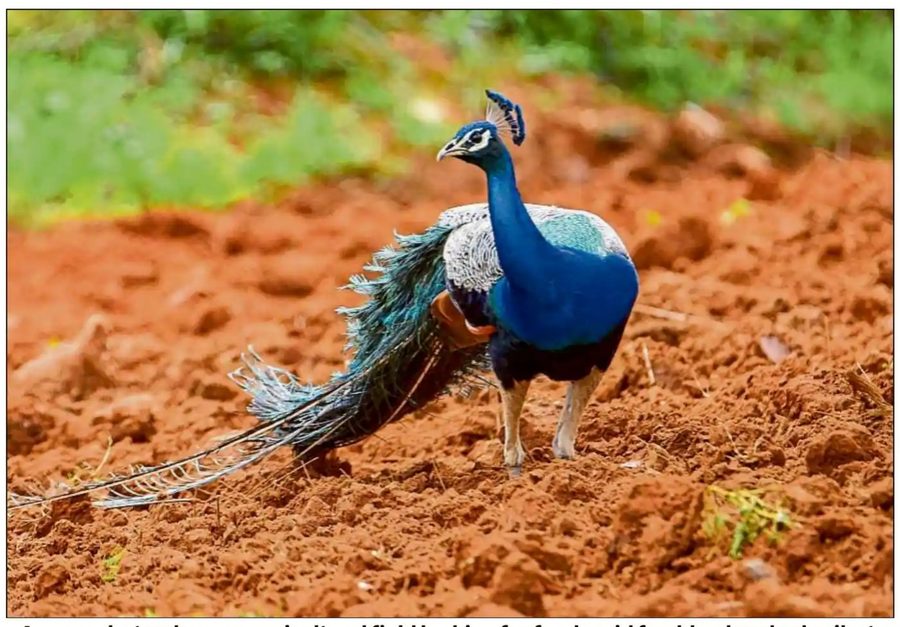
The circular cites provisions of the Karnataka Police Act, 1963, the Karnataka Excise Act, 1965, and the Karnataka Excise Licences (General Conditions) Rules, 1967, which prohibit the sale or supply of liquor to persons below 21 years of age. The rules also bar serving liquor to intoxicated persons, those suspected of disturbing public order and certain categories of public servants while on duty.

Police have been empowered to initiate stringent action against violators, including suspension or cancellation of liquor licence, imposition of penalties and criminal prosecution of owners, managers and licence holders. The circular specifically states that owners and event organisers will be held personally accountable for violations occurring within their premises.

As part of the enforcement mechanism, establishments have been directed to ensure that CCTV cameras installed at entry points remain functional at all times and that footage is preserved for at least one month to aid investigations whenever required.

The police have also been instructed to coordinate with educational institutions, parents, resident welfare associations and community groups to create awareness and prevent minors from accessing alcohol, tobacco and narcotic substances.

STANDING PRETTY



A peacock stands on an agricultural field looking for food amid freshly ploughed soil, at Saganipura village in Chikkamagaluru district on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

BJP plans pujas to mark Modi's 12 years as PM today

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP state general secretary Nandish Reddy said on Tuesday that pujas would be performed across the country on June 10 to mark Narendra Modi completing 12 years as prime minister.

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra is expected to perform the puja at Malleshwaram. The party's state in-charge, Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, will perform the puja in the Gandhinagar Assembly constituency.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka will do the puja in Banashankari.

Rural libraries, schools to get first indigenous AI-ready PCs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The first batch of KEO, the indigenously built AI-ready personal computer (PC), will be delivered to rural libraries and educational institutions, Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge said on Tuesday.

KEO — Knowledge-driven, Economical, Open-source — is being custom-built by startups and semiconductor companies for the state-run Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (Keonics).

Priyank visited the Keonics assembly facility in Peenya to check on the assembly and packing of the first 2,000 KEO computers. First unveiled in November last year, KEO is priced at Rs 18,999. It comes with 4G, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, USB-A and USB-C ports, HDMI, audio jack support, and has BUD*DH*, an AI agent trained on the Karnataka state syllabus to assist students even in low-connectivity regions.

"Less than a year ago, KEO was just an idea. An idea to bridge the digital divide and make AI-ready computing affordable and accessible to every learner," Priyank said.

Priyank said he visited the Keonics facility ahead of KEOs rollout and met engineers, technicians and assembly teams.

"Despite global supply chain pressures and rising chip prices, we have stayed committed to delivering the first batch of our AI-ready personal computers at just Rs 18,999," the minister said.

"As these first systems make their way to rural libraries and educational institutions across Karnataka, KEO will mark an important step towards democratising technology, building AI literacy and opening new avenues for learning and innovation," Priyank said.

Mandya bizman kills wife, son, dies by suicide

Purported death note blames free bus scheme

MANDYA, DHNS

A businessman allegedly murdered his wife and son, before ending his life by suicide, in Mandya on Tuesday. In a purported suicide note he has blamed free bus scheme of the government for suffering losses in his business.

Prabhakar (65), a resident of Nehru Nagar, Mandya city, his wife Jyothi (55) and their son Santosh (30) are the deceased.

Prabhakar and Jyothi had two children. Their daughter is an employee of a software company and lives in Bengaluru. Prabhakar, was living in a rented house in Hassan, along with his wife, son and daughter-in-law.

According to the police, Prabhakar strangled his wife to death with a dhoti in the wee hours of Tuesday. When his son came to the room, he murdered his son in a similar way. Later, he went to his textile shop and ended his life by hanging, they said. The daughter-in-law escaped, as she was in a deep sleep in her room, and was not aware of the murders. Police said that Santosh was married just a month ago. Mandya East Police have registered a case.

Death note

According to the police, Prabhakar has left behind a death note in which he has blamed the free bus scheme, due to which women travelled free of cost and opted to buy clothes in bigger cities, and hence he suffered heavy loss in the textile business. He had availed a home loan and was not able to pay the EMIs. Besides, he had taken loans from micro finance companies and private parties.

Unable to bear the harassment by lenders, Prabhakar took the extreme step, the police said.

2, including youth Cong leader, held for extortion

MANGALURU, DHNS: Two persons, including DK District Youth Congress general secretary, have been arrested after a contractor accused them of extorting Rs 2.77 crore.

The arrested are Jitesh and Nizam alias Ibrahim, police said. Nizam is the District Youth Congress general secretary. He was expelled from party on Tuesday.

Jitesh allegedly sent obscene photographs related to an illicit relationship and claimed to possess compromising videos. He demanded Rs 35 lakh and threatened to make the videos public if money was not paid.

Nizam further extorted the complainant by falsely claiming that Jitesh died by suicide and had mentioned the complainant in a suicide note.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application Notification No. 565/STBA/06-02/2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at the following Railway station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for a period of Three (03) years.:

Sl.	Name of the Station	Station Code	Station Category
1	Banaswadi	BAND	NSG-5

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 10-07-2026. Date and time of opening of application: 15:05 hrs. of 10-07-2026

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/196/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru**

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager/Engg., Chakradharpur acting For & On behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No., Tender Notice No. & Name of work** are as follows : **1. CKP-EAST-26-27-14.** Improvement of Tatanagar Yard. **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,80,93,184.23. **EMD :** ₹ 9,61,900/-. **2. CKP-EAST-26-27-16.** 1) Construction of drain at Adityapur Yard. 2) Construction/Improvement of yard drain at Salggajhari (SLJR). 3) Construction/Improvement of Yard drain of Manikui (MIK). 4) Improvement of yard drain at BDO (Bahalda RD). 5) Improvement of yard drain at Kuldiha and Rairangpur. **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,66,10,034.03. **EMD:** ₹ 5,32,200/-. **3. CKP-EAST-26-27-18.** 1) TBR-16.372Tkm between section Tatatnagar-Gamharia, Gamharia-Sini, Chandil-Kandra and Kandra-Sini. 2) Rajkharsawan-Chandil - TBR 13.75 Km between Rajkharsawan-Chandil (JL) 267.15-275.40=8.25TKM and 285.1-290.1=5TKM and TBR(T/O)-99 Sets 3) TBR alongwith deep screening/raising of ballast cushion to 30 cm for 3.5 km in different yard line at Kandra. 4) at Mahali Marup, 5) at Gamharia, 6) at Birarajpur, 7) at Rajkharsawan, 8) at Sini, 9) at Kunki, 10) at Asanboni, 11) at Bahalda Road, 12) at Aunlajori, Gorumahisani and Badampahar. 13) at Kuldiha and Rairangpur. 14) Renewal of 204 Nos. Glued Joint between Gamharia-Sini-57 Nos. Sini-Rajkharsawan-147 Nos. and Sini-Kandra-3 Nos. under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/E/CKP. 15) Chakradharpur Division - TTR (WCMSC)-8 set, TTR (TSR)-9 sets, TTR (CMS)-2 sets, TTR (FS+CS+CMSC)-1 set, TTR (TWS+WCMSC) - 7 sets under Sr. DEN/E/CKP. 16) Nimpura-Tatanagar Jn.-TSR(S)-1.320Tkm and Tatanagar Jn-Gamharia-TSR(S)-0.796Tkm under Sr. DEN/E/CKP. 17) Nimpura-Tatanagar Jn. TTR (FS+CS+CMSC)-17 sets & TTR (DS)-16 sets under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/East/CKP. 18) Improvement of Adityapur Yard 19) Improvement of Salgajhari (SLJR) Yard. 20) Improvement of Manikui (MIK) Yard. **Tender Value :** ₹ 8,82,66,509.56. **EMD :** ₹ 17,65,300/-. **4. CKP-WEST-26-27-14.** (i) Yard improvement work under the jurisdiction of SSE/P.Way/ROU (ii) Bondamunda-Rourkela - TSR(S)-2.245 Tkm. **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,76,08,275.31. **EMD :** ₹ 25,52,200/- **5. CKP-WEST-26-27-15.** (i) Yard improvement work under the jurisdiction of SSE/P.Way/I/BNDM (ii) Bondamunda Yard - TTR(TFR) - 125 sets. **Tender Value :** ₹ 15,55,80,406.44. **EMD :** ₹ 31,11,600/-. **6. CKP-EAST-26-27-01.** Engg. work for construction of Relay room (7.10 m x 4.60m), IPS room (3.70m x 4.60m) and Battery room (3.00m x 4.60m) between Sini-Chandil section in connection with Supply, transportation and commissioning of Dual MSDAC in Auto Section of Sini-Chandil (UP & DN Line) and Adityapur-Rajkharsawan (jt/3rd line) of Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,31,26,511.41. **EMD :** ₹ 4,62,500/-**Cost of Tender form :** ₹ 0 for each. **Date of opening :** 07.07.2026 for Sl. No. 1, 3 & 6 each, 26.06.2026 for Sl. No. 2 and 29.06.2026 for Sl. No. 4 & 5 each. The tender can be viewed at Website **http://www. ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note :** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority-Rly. Bd.'s letter No. 2020/CE-I /CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-293)**

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

E-Tender No: OT-MRS-RET-26-3, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer- CTG/ Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of President of India, invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in for following work. **(1) Name of work with its location and completion period. :** Work of machining and fixing of wear plate in worn out Drag Retainer and Cope Retaining Ring as per Drawing No. WAP/SK/MW-297 alt e. Completion period:-24 Months. **(2) Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 7065250/- **(3) Earnest Money to be Deposited :** Rs. 141300/- **(4) Cost of tender document :** Nil **(5) Tender closing date and time :** 29.06.2026 at 14:00 hrs. **(6) Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. :** E-Tender No: OT-MRS-RET-26-3, For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal **(www.irpes.gov.in)** for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/ information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/CTG
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2026-27/34

Health evidence takes 17 years to reach clinical practice & public policy, says ICMR scientist

BENGALURU, DHNS

Scientific evidence takes an average of 17 years to be translated into routine clinical practice and public policy, Dr Ashoo Grover, Scientist 'G' and Head of the Division of Delivery and Implementation Research at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said.

Speaking at the three-day national conference on 'Bringing Evidence into Public Health Policy (EPHP)', he also stressed the need for greater focus on implementation research.

"Given India's diverse population and contexts, the mix of public and private healthcare systems, the gap between policy and practice, and the challenges of scaling innovations, it is important for us to focus on implementation," Dr Grover said at the conference.

The event is organised by the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, The George Institute for Global Health India, and the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp.

Rithwik Ranjannam Pandey, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Karnataka, pointed to the gap between policymaking and implementation.

Dignitaries at the three-day national conference on 'Bringing Evidence into Public Health Policy (EPHP)' in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO

"There is a lack of use of evidence in policymaking. We have an elaborate system for recording maternal deaths, and the data are mandatorily captured. Yet, despite having the data, we are often unable to identify the root causes or make policy decisions accordingly," he said.

Dr Sundari Ravindran, Professor at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology and Governing Board Member of the Institute of Public Health, said public health research must generate stronger ground-level evidence to guide policy and health system reforms.

An expert session on Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH) examined how products, services, corporations and broader global forces influence health outcomes, often adversely.

Dr Upendra Bhojani, Senior Fellow at the Institute of Public Health, said: "Products such as processed foods, corporations such as food aggregators, and global commercial actors that legally market products such as tobacco are all drivers of CDoH."

He said surrogate advertising, used to promote legally restricted products such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling through other products under the same brand name, also significantly influences consumer health.

Tumakuru-Chitradurga-D'gere rail line to open by Feb 2028, says Minister Somanna

BENGALURU, DNS: Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Tuesday conducted a review meeting with senior railway officials to assess the progress of ongoing and proposed railway infrastructure projects in Bengaluru and Tumakuru.

The review covered road overbridges (ROBs), road underbridges (RUBs) and foot overbridges (FOBs) among other works.

A total of 32 RoB and RuB works are being executed in Tumakuru, Somanna's Lok Sabha constituency. These include ROBs at Panditanahalli, Maidala, Baddihalli, Batavadi, Heggere, Mallasandra, Benchegere, Nittur-Mysuru, Nandihalli Gate, and on BH Road towards Hassan and Bidiregudi. He directed officials to complete these works within the targeted timelines of 2026–27, according to a railway statement.

The minister also reviewed the progress of the 191-km Tumakuru-Chitradurga-Davangere new railway line project, being executed at a cost of Rs 1,801 crore under a 50:50 cost-sharing model with the government of Karnataka. He said over 92% of the required land had been acquired. The Urukere-Thimmarajanahalli section (13.31 km) has been completed and is ready for commissioning. The entire project will be completed by February 2028.

The 206-km Tumakuru-Rayadurg new line project, costing Rs 2,496 crore, will connect Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Of this, 83 km has already been commissioned. The Tumakuru–Urukere section has passed the statutory safety inspection, while the Pavagada-Dodda Halli section is ready for inauguration. Remaining sections are progressing well, with land acquisition nearing completion at over 97%, the statement added.

Somanna emphasised the need for close coordination with the state government to expedite residual land acquisition, obtain timely approvals for road closures and diversions, and address utility shifting issues involving power lines, water pipelines and forest clearances.

Ajay Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, South Western Railway, and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Free poultry farming training

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) has invited applications from unemployed rural youth for a 12-day free training programme on poultry farming, beginning on July 6. Contact RUDSETI, Bengaluru North district, on 9241482541, 9481506564, 9740982585, or 9113880324.

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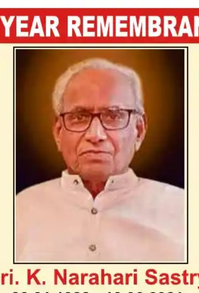
5th YEAR REMEMBRANCE



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30.01.1933 - 10.06.2021
(Coffee Board)
Founder Director: Suthramela Puppeteers
You have been a great artist, selfless, always loving, disciplined, inspiring, friendly and kind.
You are in our thoughts every single day.
We miss you, cherish the memories.
Lots of Love from all of us.
You are in our hearts always.
Fondly remembered by your family.
"Suthramela"
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State offers incentives worth Rs 10,980 cr to companies in 3 years

Foxconn gets biggest share in government's largesse

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has offered incentives and concessions worth at least Rs 10,980 crore to companies over the past three years, underlining the growing role of state-backed sops in attracting investments amid stiff competition from southern neighbours.

According to sources, the government has put together an incentive package for American chip equipment major Lam Research, which has committed an investment of Rs 10,000 crore. The contents of the package remain undisclosed.

The government is determined to land the Lam Research investment, which it believes will add to the state's repertoire after wooing Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn and California-based semiconductor equipment firm Applied Materials.

Foxconn has the biggest share in the government's incentive pie. The company, which has invested Rs 21,911 crore on a facility in Devanahalli where iPhones are being made, got an incentive package worth Rs 6,970 crore.

In April this year, Karnataka changed its land allotment policy to secure the Applied Materials' semiconductor project with an investment of Rs 3,600 crore. The company is getting 140 acres near the Bengaluru airport at Rs 1,288 per sq ft of floor space index (FSI) on a lease-cum-sale basis, a deviation from the government's policy of lease-only allotment.

Lam Research already has its India Center for Engineering in Bengaluru, and is looking to expand. The company has identified a 25-acre space belonging to Embassy East Business Park Ltd in the Kadugodi Industrial Area near Whitefield. The land, however, is facing litigation.

Since 2023, Karnataka has granted concessions worth Rs 680.95 crore to 82 large companies under the Industrial Policy, according to a May 19 report brought out by the government. Another 38 big businesses have received interest-free loans of Rs 2,955 crore against value-added tax payments. Under the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) policy, Rs 374.33 crore was disbursed to companies to boost domestic manufacturing.

"We have already surpassed incentives that were to be given over a five-year period," Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge said.

"Some companies get higher incentives because they also bring with them their supply chain." Referring to drastic concessions offered by other states, he said: "It's a race to the bottom that we don't want."

Industries Minister M B Patil said incentives were normally provided to companies investing more than Rs 500 crore. "We have also given incentives to companies investing just Rs 70-80 crore because their presence is important and having them builds an ecosystem that attracts big firms," he said.

THE SOP STORY

- **Rs 2,955 cr** interest-free loans to 38 large and mega industrial units
- **Rs 680.95 cr** concessions to 82 large and mega industries
- **Rs 374.33 cr** incentives for ESDM sector
- **Rs 6,970 cr** incentive for Foxconn

Land policy tweaked for Applied Materials

Malnad people divided over S'mogga-M'luru railway line

But Hosanagar residents want route to pass through taluk

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA,DHNS

People of Malnad region are divided over the proposed Shivamogga-Mangaluru railway project via Sringeri, which passes through Western Ghats.

Flagging the damage it could cause to the ecological balance of Malnad region, a section of people in Chikkamagaluru district have initiated an online campaign 'Save Sringeri' against the project . They argued that the railway network at the cost of lives of the people in Malnad region was not needed.

Environmentalist Nagaraj Koove told *DH* that the top priority of people's representatives must be to issue title deeds to small farmers in Malnad region.

"Many people are homeless. It is high time that they are given houses. Later, the government can think of building a railway line between Malnad and coastal region," Koove said.

Sringeri areca growers' association general secretary Aravind Sigadal said those supporting the project had no clarity over why they needed it and how it would benefit them.

But those opposing it had plenty of reasons. This was the ground reality in Chikkamagaluru district, he said.

Sigadal said a large number of trees may have to be cut to make way for the project, leading to destruction of forests and loss of flora and fauna.

"It does not benefit local people as they don't travel to coastal region on a daily basis. There is a need to create awareness among people in this regard," he said.

In contrast, people of Hosanagar have demanded that the Centre and the railways include Hosanagar in the proposed project.

Members of various organisations staged a protest in the town recently in support of their demand. The Hosanagar merchants' association submitted a memorandum to the tahsildar in this regard.

The memo said Hosanagar was excluded from the detailed project report (DPR) of the project.

"A tender has already been floated for preparing the DPR, which costs about Rs 3,300 crore. In 2018, the then chief minister D V Sadananda Gowda had demanded that Hosanagar should be included in the project. Currently, discussions are on to build the line via Arasalu-Ripponpet-Thirthahalli, which is unfair to Hosanagar," it said.

People said Hosanagar taluk was backward in the district and was deprived of many facilities.

People had given away their lands and houses for the implementation of hydro-power projects, the memo pointed out.

The proposed railway line must pass through Arasalu, Ripponpet, Hosanagar, and Thirthahalli, they added.

Land-sliding is a common occurrence on the railway line to Mangaluru near Yedakumari station in Sakleshpur of Hassan district. Environmentalists say building one more line through the eco-sensitive Malnad region can prove costly. DH FILE PHOTO

A social media post on 'Save Sringeri' campaign.

RAIL LINE'S GREEN BLUES

- Perilous to precious Western Ghats forests as project necessitates large-scale tree-cutting, say greens. Launch 'Save Sringeri' online campaign
- Not many people travel to coast daily from Malnad, they argue
- Get your priorities right, build shelters for homeless: Naysayers
- Hosanagar people say theirs is a backward taluk, rail line will bring devpt

Hitnal's supporters protest outside Siddu's house

BENGALURU, DHNS: Supporters of MLA Raghavendra Hitnal staged a protest outside former chief minister Siddaramaiah's government residence 'Cauvery' on Tuesday.

They demanded that Hitnal should be made a minister. They also demanded priority for members of the Kuruba community from North Karnataka and called for an additional ministerial position for the community.

Urban Development Minister Dr Yathindra, Siddaramaiah's son, met the demonstrators and appealed to them to remain calm. "Your demand is legitimate, but there are proper channels to pursue it. I will convey your request to my father, and he will discuss it with the high command. Efforts will be made to fulfil your demand," he told them.

Haris' son gained from Bitcoin scam: SIT charge sheet

Bitcoin, From Page 1

The charge sheet names Nalapad, Sriki and the latter's accountant Robin Khandelwal. Sriki, Khandelwal and another associate Sunish Hegde were last month remanded in judicial custody following their arrest by the ED.

The ED also alleged that the Nalapad brothers and other associates were beneficiaries in the 2017 case.

While it has reportedly issued another summons to Nalapad, the central agency is yet to issue an official statement on the investigation.

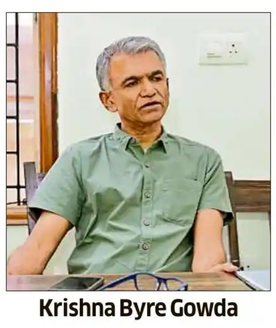
The multi-crore scam came to the fore after Sriki's arrest in November 2020 in a case related to buying hydro ganja on the dark web using Bitcoins. The probe found that Sriki hacked into online poker sites, crypto exchanges and other websites.

Further investigations also revealed his alleged role in the hacking of the Karnataka government's e-procurement portal and stealing Rs 11.5 crore in funds in 2019.

In 2023, the Congress government formed the SIT to investigate the case.

In February 2025, the SIT questioned the Nalapad brothers, who were earlier questioned in June 2024 by the SIT. On April 20, the ED raided Sriki, Khan and Nalapad brothers.

"Investigations under the PMLA revealed that the Nalapad brothers are close associates of Sriki and main beneficiaries of proceeds of crime," ED sources had told *DH*.



Krishna Byre Gowda

KBG reaches Delhi with portfolio grouse

KBG, From Page 1

He is expected to cite examples such as the Outer Ring Road, lake management and multiple infrastructure projects handled by the BDA, questioning who would be accountable for issues like flooding, delays, or cost overruns.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will be also in Delhi on Wednesday for meetings with top Congress leaders.

Earlier, senior leader Ramalinga Reddy had expressed unhappiness over being allotted Water Resources and had sought the Bengaluru Development portfolio, but was convinced by Shivakumar to accept his portfolio.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa too sought a change in portfolio, but was asked by Rahul Gandhi to assume charge with an assurance that his concerns would be addressed later.

Mass hiring ends in IT sector as AI era begins: TCS

TCS, From Page 1

The global enterprise IT industry, currently worth around $1.6 trillion, is forecast to hit $3 trillion within the next decade, effectively doubling.

AI is raising the ambition of what technology can deliver across every sector, the company's chairman said.

For TCS, AI revenues have been growing consistently. In the last quarter of fiscal 2026, TCS had an annualised AI revenue of US$ 2.4 billion, growing at 22.4%, he said, stressing the need to build a lot of AI skills.

"I have watched this industry navigate every major technology wave for decades. I have not seen one with this much to build," he added.

The fiscal year 2026 began with positive developments, including the signing of the landmark India-EU trade agreement and the interim India-US trade deal. "However, by early March, the start of the West Asia crisis brought rising concerns about stagflation - falling output coupled with rising inflation.

In this environment, businesses have been prioritising resilience, productivity, and trust-based decisions. Despite this evolving global landscape marked by economic fluctuations and geopolitical tensions, your company has delivered a credible performance," he told shareholders.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast June 10: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.4	21	38.2
Bidar	34	24.5	00
Vijayapura	33	23	00
Dharwad	28.8	21.2	00
Haveri	27.4	22.4	06
Kalaburagi	34.5	24.9	00
Raichur	35	24.2	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	26.8	23.5	33.7
Karwar	27.8	24.6	17.2
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.1	23.4	28.4

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	29.6	21.4	0.3
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30	21.6	0.2
Davangere	29	20.3	8.2
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	31.2	21.2	04
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	31.6	21.6	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	42.2	29.2	00
Kolkata	38	24	07
Mumbai	35.1	30	00
Chennai	39.7	31.4	00
Pune	35.6	25.8	00
Hyderabad	36.4	26.9	00
Th'puram	30.5	23.7	22

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DKS to attend Niti Aayog meeting tomorrow

DK Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will attend the 11th Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog in Delhi on Thursday.

This is in stark contrast to his predecessor Siddaramaiah, who had skipped the 10th Governing Council meeting last year, citing prior engagements in Mysuru.

Siddaramaiah's absence from the prime minister-chaired meeting had drawn sharp criticism from the Opposition BJP. In July 2024, too, Siddaramaiah skipped the NITI Aayog meet, alleging "neglect" of Karnataka's demands in the Union budget.

After becoming the chief minister, Shivakumar told Prime Minister Modi in a tweet: "...I look forward to working closely with the Union government in the spirit of cooperative federalism to further strengthen our state."

Siddaramaiah's absence from the prime minister-chaired meeting had drawn sharp criticism from the Opposition BJP

Three mass leaders who proved mast lights for their parties

ANALYSIS

Parties tweak strategies as stalwarts fade into oblivion

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS:

With JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda not returning to the Rajya Sabha for a fresh term, the electoral careers of the state's three big mass leaders — Siddaramaiah, B S Yediyurappa and Deve Gowda — have all effectively ended, necessitating their parties to reorient electoral strategies.

While Yediyurappa retired from electoral politics in 2023, Siddaramaiah's resignation to the post of chief minister and his decision to not seek election to the Upper House of parliament indicate his likely retirement from electoral politics after 2028.

Though the 93-year-old Gowda could still be sent to Rajya Sabha by BJP from Uttar Pradesh, it's not very likely, given his age and inclination to be nominated from Karnataka itself.

For decades, these 3 leaders not only led their parties, but also built distinct images for themselves. While Siddaramaiah emerged as the undisputed leader of Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes & SC/STs) bloc, Yediyurappa and Gowda have been the strongest leaders of Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, respectively.

Significantly, BJP's decision not to renominate Gowda coincides with the elevation of D K Shivakumar as CM.

Legends' lasting impact

Deve Gowda (93) - Former PM's Rajya Sabha term expires on June 30

Siddaramaiah (78) - Resigned as chief minister on May 31, refused Cong's offer for RS nomination; Has 2 years left as MLA

Yediyurappa (83) - Retired from electoral politics in 2023

Shrinking Vokkaliga vote base spells trouble for JD(S)?

The JD(S), which has alienated its minority voters due to its alignment with the BJP twice, also suffered from a shift of its Vokkaliga base towards both the Congress and the BJP, which reduced its vote share from 18% in 2018 polls to 13.29% in 2023 polls. Shivakumar's elevation could be a further blow, and a potential existential crisis for the regional party.

While things are not as bleak for BJP, its plans to expand its base in south Karnataka and develop strong leaders among Vokkaligas seems to have been halted, at least for the time being. Speculation is rife in political circles that Shivakumar's rise is likely to significantly consolidate the Vokkaliga votes in favour of Congress, which has compelled BJP to consolidate its traditional support base amongst Lingayats, while also trying to use Siddaramaiah's resignation as an opening to build a base amongst OBC communities traditionally loyal to Congress.

The biggest advantage for Congress seems to be a possibility after 20-odd years to leapfrog the JD(S) and emerge as the dominant force amongst Vokkaligas. A senior minister in the Shivakumar Cabinet told DH that the Kanakapura strongman's elevation as CM was bound to increase its support base among Vokkaligas. However, Congress will be wary of BJP's counter stratergy.

DELIVER IT FAST

Farmers make a beeline to purchase fertlisers at the farmers' produce sales co-operative society at Nehru Ganj in Kalaburagi on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Gowda didn't apply for RS berth, says HDK; slams Cong

Says party trying to create rift in BJP-JD(S) ties

MANDYA, DHNS:

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, on Tuesday, clarified that former prime minister H D Deve Gowda had not applied for a Rajya Sabha ticket.

He was reacting to statements by Congress leaders that the BJP's decision to field a candidate of its own for the poll to the Upper House from the state and not re-nominate Gowda was an insult to his party, the JD(S).

Kumaraswamy said, "Deve Gowda had not applied for a Rajya Sabha ticket. But Congress leaders are showing excessive sympathy towards Gowda. The Congress is hatching a conspiracy to create a rift in the alliance between BJP and JD(S)".

The union minister was speaking to reporters after inaugurating classrooms constructed with CSR funds at a school at Taggahalli in the district on Tuesday.

"Deve Gowda has been a fighter and has faced several challenges. He is not greedy for power. He quit the prime minister's post, when his self-respect was hurt. Are the Congress leaders unaware of all this?" he asked. "Last time, there was no opportunity for another candidate to contest against Deve Gowda. No party had the numbers to field its candidate. The JD(S) had the strength. That is why Gowda was elected to Rajya Sabha. He did not go to the Rajya Sabha with the support of Congress," he quipped.

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy interacts with students during the inauguration of new classrooms at a school at Thagahalli in Mandya district on Tuesday. Former MLA Ravindra Srikantaiah and others are seen. DH PHOTO

On Zameer

To a query, Kumaraswamy clarified that former minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan was not in contact with him. "I have also not contacted any Congress leader," the former chief minister said.

On meeting CM

When asked if he will meet Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who has been calling on all former CMs, Kumaraswamy said, "What suggestions should I give? He has criticised me many times asking 'What has Kumaraswamy done as CM twice?'. I have not done anything. What advice will he seek from me? I am aware of everything (his intentions)".

Commenting on the MLC election, he said, "We need two votes and Congress too needs two votes. There is no game plan in this. We will ask MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who has been expelled from BJP, to vote for us. We will try our best. The Congress has money and muscle power. Let us see what happens".

Hariprasad to assume charge as KPCC president on June 21

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hariprasad

Senior Congress leader and MLC B K Hariprasad, 71, will officially take charge as the 23rd Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president at the KPCC office in the city on June 21.

Hariprasad was appointed as the state party chief on June 3 by the All India Congress Committee. A prominent Billava face from Bengaluru, Hariprasad, succeeds D K Shivakumar, who was sworn in as the 24th chief minister of the state recently.

A Nehru-Gandhi family loyalist, Hariprasad has deep Congress roots. He joined the party in 1972 and rose through the ranks in NSUI and Youth Congress, and was AICC joint secretary from 1997-98, All India Congress Seva Dal chairman from 2000-01, AICC secretary from 2001-06 and AICC general secretary from 2006-18.

The party is banking on the Billava-OBC leader to retain its Ahinda coalition following (previous chief minister) Siddaramaiah's exit. The last OBC KPCC chief was B Janardhana Poojary, also a Billava from Dakshina Kannada district, in 2003.

Elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1990, 2004, 2013 and 2014, he has been in charge of a dozen states, including Gujarat, Puducherry, Goa, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

BYV hits back at Cong over 'crocodile tears' for Deve Gowda

Reminds how it pulled carpet from under his govt's feet

BENGALURU, DHNS:

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday accused AICC general secretary (Karnataka incharge) Randeep Singh Surjewala and KPCC president B K Hariprasad of shedding "crocodile tears" over former prime minister and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda being denied a Rajya Sabha seat.

In a press statement, Vijayendra recalled that the Congress had withdrawn its support to the then United Front government, leading to the resignation of Deve Gowda as prime minister.

"There's no need for Surjewala and Hariprasad to shed crocodile tears over Deve Gowda. Congress leaders seem to have forgotten that it's the Congress that made Gowda step down as prime minister. It's the Congress that troubled Gowda throughout his political career and tried to split his party".

Claiming that PM Narendra Modi had praised Gowda in the Rajya Sabha, the BJP state president said it was "shameful" for the Congress to do politics in the name of Gowda.

Slams Priyank over remark on RSS

Slamming Home Minister Priyank Kharge for his comments seeking the registration of the RSS, Vijayendra said that the RSS functions "within the framework of the Constitution of India". "Much to your disappointment, RSS has now completed 100 years of its existence. That must be difficult for you and perhaps even more so for your real "chief" to accept. Meanwhile, your Gulbarga constituency continues to rank poorly on several development indicators, reflecting years of inadequate governance and ineffective leadership," Vijayendra said on X.

Raise minimum wage under VB-G RAM G: Khandre

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Eshwar Khandre has urged the Centre to increase minimum wages under the VB - G RAM G Act, citing rising prices and inflation.

Speaking at a video conference with Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Khandre said Karnataka has already approved higher minimum wages for workers and asked the Centre to follow suit for the rural job scheme.

The Centre has made an interim allocation of Rs 5,709.90 crore to Karnataka under the 60:40 funding pattern under the new scheme, which takes effect from July 1. The state will contribute Rs 3,806.60 crore as its share.

A meeting of state RDPR ministers will be held in New Delhi on June 28 and 29 to discuss the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act.

Khandre said he would attend the meeting and present Karnataka's demands.

NO STRATEGIC TIME OUT

Why ever-busy Kanugolu is central to Cong's plans in state

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu has been retained as chief adviser to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, with Cabinet rank. The man who ambushed the BJP with the 'PayCM' campaign in the 2023 Assembly elections, while leveraging the momentum of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to energise Congress cadre in Karnataka, was brought into then chief minister Siddaramaiah's team at the behest of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Sunil Kanugolu.

Even as the ruling Congress hopes to switch gears ahead of the 2028 polls, Kanugolu could have his hands full as Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is reportedly keen to have him in his core team to improve coordination between the government and party leaders, ahead of civic polls and next Assembly elections there. Last week, Kanugolu was part of a strategy meeting in Delhi to chart out the Congress roadmap for the Punjab Assembly elections. The 44-year-old US-educated strategist from Ballari, who grew up in Chennai, studied computer engineering and worked for McKinsey, on his return to India, joined Prashant Kishor's Citizens for Accountable Governance and worked on Narendra Modi's successful 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign.

In 2016, Amit Shah handpicked him to head the BJP's war room, Association of Billion Minds, before he eventually parted ways with BJP. Subsequently, Kanugolu built a reputation for working across political divides. He worked with DMK during M K Stalin's rise, later advised AIADMK chief and the then Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi Palaniswami and Shiromani Akali Dal (through 'Gal Punjab Di' campaign).

The Congress thereafter engaged his firm, Mindshare Analytics, to steer its successful campaigns in Karnataka and Telangana in 2023.

The 'Kaleshwaram ATM' campaign against alleged corruption in the lift irrigation project, during the tenure of K Chandrashekhar Rao as chief minister, helped Congress dominate the political narrative in the Telangana Assembly elections.

Known to enjoy Rahul Gandhi's confidence, a media-shy Kanugolu has emerged as one of the Congress' most influential backroom operators.

He also heads 'Inclusive Minds' - a Bengaluru-based election consultancy firm for the Congress. Ahead of the 2026 assembly polls in Kerala, his team carried out extensive constituency-level surveys on anti-incumbency, candidate preferences and leadership perception.

One assessment projected the UDF crossing 80 seats, prompting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to quip that the real 'Kanugolus' of the Left Democrstic Front (LDF) were the people who had experienced 10 years of LDF rule.

Another survey reportedly found V D Satheesan the most preferred chief ministerial candidate among the then opposition leaders.

Avenues

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4	Assistant Professor of Anesthesia	Rs. 79800 - 211500	05	SC - 02 ST - 01 Cat I - 01 IIA - 01	SC/ST- 45 years Cat I / IIA - 43 years
5	Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery	Rs. 79800 - 211500	04	SC - 01 GM - 02 ST - 01	SC/ST - 45 years GM - 40 years

Kalaburgi Branch

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale AICTE	No. of Posts	Classifications	Age Limit
1	Professor of C T Surgery	Rs. 144200 - 218200	01	SC - 01	SC- 50 years
2	Assistant Professor of Cardiology	Rs. 79800 - 211500	06	SC-02 GM-02 IIA-01 Cat-I-01	SC - 45 years Cat I / IIA- 43 years GM-40 years
3	Associate Professor of C T Surgery	Rs. 131400 - 217100	02	SC - 01 GM - 01	SC- 45 years GM-40 years
4	Associate Professor of Anesthesia	Rs. 131400 - 217100	02	SC - 01 GM - 01	SC- 45 years GM-40 years
5	Assistant Professor of Anesthesia	Rs. 79800 - 211500	03	GM - 02 IIB - 01	IIB - 43 years GM-40 years
6	Associate Professor of Radiology	Rs. 131400 - 217100	01	SC - 01	SC- 45 years

Note:
1. The Application, Minimum qualification & experience and Instructions may be downloaded from the Institute website **www. jayadevacardiology.com**.

DIPR/CP/LC/1071/2026-27

Sd/-,
Director

THE PRINTERS (MYSORE) PRIVATE LIMITED
Publishers: DECCAN HERALD, PRAJAVANI, SUDHA & MAYURA

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The Printers (Mysore) Private Limited
75, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
E-mail: neesha.srinivas@printersmysore.co.in

CBSE's three-language policy for Class 9 challenged in SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A fresh petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) decision to mandate the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 9 students from the academic year beginning July 1.

The plea has been moved by Fauzia Khan, a prominent educationist and former Maharashtra minister from the Nationalist Congress Party–Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP).

Khan has argued that the CBSE's May 15 circular arbitrarily imposes Hindi or Sanskrit on students, particularly in non-Hindi-speaking states, and is violative of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The petition contends that the circular is "arbitrary and unreasonable" and would effectively force the compulsory introduction of Hindi in southern states and Sanskrit in northern states, despite an acknowledged shortage of teachers.

"The impugned circular acknowledges this teacher shortage in its own text, yet proceeds to mandate compliance," the plea states.

This comes close on the heels of an earlier PIL filed by a group of 19 petitioners, including parents and teachers from Delhi, Gurugram, Noida and Chennai.

On May 27, the Supreme Court had issued notice on that petition and scheduled a further hearing in the second week of July.

During the May 27 hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that students would be required to study three languages (R1, R2 and R3) from the next academic session, with at least two being native Indian languages.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in a connected matter, described the issue as a "federal issue" and emphasised that language should be a matter of choice rather than imposition.

He also pointed to the non-availability of textbooks.

The petitioners had sought an interim direction to the CBSE not to implement the policy from July 1, but the bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, did not pass any stay order, merely observing: "We will see."

The fresh plea by Fauzia Khan seeks intervention in the ongoing matter, highlighting the practical difficulties and the lack of educational rationale behind the move.

Final rock barrier blasted at Zojila tunnel

Breakthrough to strengthen India's strategic lifeline to Ladakh

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The final rock barrier inside the Zojila Tunnel was blasted on Tuesday, marking a major breakthrough in the strategically significant project that will provide all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh for the first time.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari attended the breakthrough event at Baltal, where engineers connected the two ends of the 13.15-km tunnel beneath the snow-bound Zojila Pass.

"The breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel is a historic milestone in India's infrastructure journey and a major step towards ensuring all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh," Gadkari said, describing the project as a game-changer for connectivity, economic growth and national security.

The breakthrough marks the completion of the excavation phase of one of the most challenging tunnel projects undertaken in the Himalayas. Located at an altitude of more than 11,500 feet, the Zojila Pass serves as the gateway between Kashmir and Ladakh but remains closed for several months every year due to heavy snowfall, avalanches and extreme weather conditions.

Once operational, the tunnel will end the seasonal isolation of Ladakh, ensure uninterrupted movement of people and goods, and significantly reduce travel time across the mountain pass. The project is expected to boost tourism, trade and economic activity across Kashmir, Kargil and Ladakh.

Beyond its developmental impact, the tunnel carries immense strategic significance. The Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway is the primary land route connecting Ladakh with the rest of the country and serves as a crucial supply corridor for the armed forces deployed along India's northern borders.

The project's importance has grown further in the aftermath of the military standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since 2020.

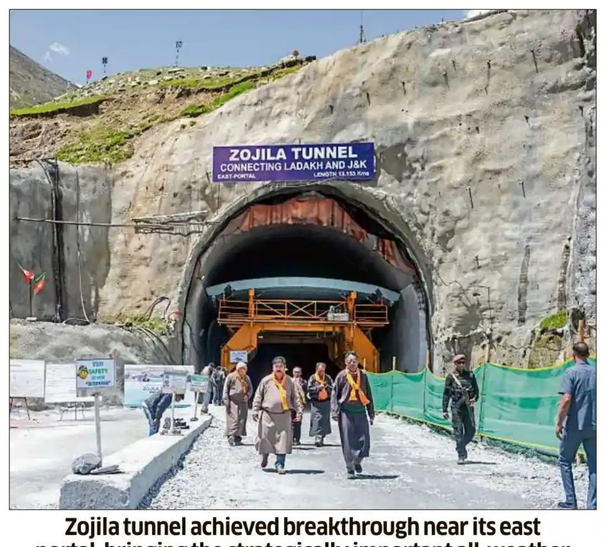
It also assumes significance in the context of continuing tensions with Pakistan along the Line of Control and the region's proximity to the sensitive Kargil sector.

Military planners have long considered all-weather access to Ladakh a strategic necessity. During the 1999 Kargil War, Pakistani intruders occupied heights overlooking the Srinagar-Leh highway in an attempt to disrupt India's supply lines to Ladakh, highlighting the vulnerability of the route and the need for dependable connectivity.

Officials associated with the project said the breakthrough represents the successful completion of the most difficult phase of construction through fragile Himalayan geology and challenging weather conditions.

With excavation now complete, work will continue on tunnel lining, ventilation, lighting, communication systems and other safety infrastructure before the tunnel is opened to traffic.

Together with the recently completed Z-Morh Tunnel, the Zojila Tunnel is expected to create a reliable all-weather corridor linking Srinagar, Sonamarg, Kargil and Leh.



Zojila tunnel achieved breakthrough near its east portal, bringing the strategically important all-weather connectivity project between Kashmir and Ladakh closer to completion, at Minimarg, in Ladakh on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

Defying judicial orders erodes public faith in justice system: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has strongly observed that when public functionaries defy its orders with impunity, it casts a "deep and lasting shadow" over the administration of justice and undermines citizens' confidence in the legal system.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said contempt of the apex court's orders strikes at the very foundation of the rule of law and the authority of the judiciary.

"The power to punish for contempt, though wide, must be exercised with restraint, discretion, and regard for the ends of justice," the bench noted, adding that punishment in contempt cases is not an end in itself but a means to secure compliance, uphold the dignity of the court, and deter others from treating judicial orders lightly.

The court was hearing a contempt petition filed by Bharat Kumar Badlani alleging wilful disobedience of its interim order directing the de-sealing and restoration of possession of his premises in Jaipur.

The matter originated from a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Rajasthan High Court concerning unauthorised constructions in the Walled City area in Jaipur.

The High Court had ordered demolition and permanent sealing of several private properties, including the petitioner's, without granting them an opportunity of hearing.

Following the Supreme Court's interim direction for de-sealing, authorities initially demanded over Rs 10.5 lakh as security, a demand that was later withdrawn.

After subsequent compliance and unconditional apologies tendered by the officials acknowledging their default, the bench accepted the apology, discharged the contempt notice, and disposed of the petition.

However, it warned that any future default would be viewed with utmost severity.

Expressing grave displeasure at the conduct of the respondent officials, the bench said the record revealed "a disturbing pattern of evasion, inaction, and deliberate disregard" for clear orders of the apex court.

"It is a matter of deep concern that officials entrusted with public duties found it permissible to treat the orders of the highest Court of this land as something to be addressed at their leisure," the bench remarked.

In their affidavits, the contemnors expressed sincere regret and assured the court of greater diligence in future compliance with judicial orders.

A partially demolished residential building stands amid debris in the Nasirnagar area after a large-scale demolition drive that sparked controversy over the authority behind the action, in Surat on Tuesday. PTI

Days after over 100 houses razed in Surat, civic body says no role

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Days after the demolition of more than 100 houses in Surat's Nasirnagar slum, the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) has launched an inquiry into who authorised the operation. The civic body has categorically denied carrying out the demolition, which took place under heavy police presence.

The demolition was carried out between May 30 and June 1 in the presence of senior civic and police officials in the minority-dominated locality. Residents have alleged that they were neither served prior notices nor given adequate warning to vacate, as required under established norms.

After the incident drew public attention, allegations have surfaced that private real estate developers may have been behind the clearance of the land to pave the way for high-end projects planned in the surrounding areas.

Several locals, including Congress leader Aslam Cyclewala, wrote to the corporation asking why no prior notices were issued to people who come from economically weaker sections. As the matter was highlighted, the corporation denied having authorised such a large-scale demolition.

When contacted, SMC commissioner M Nagarajan told *DH* that an investigation has been launched to find out who carried out the demolition. He also said that the civic body had no role in it and some of its officials had gone to the site for demarcation work only. Meanwhile, one of the affected persons, Ajij Husain Shaikh, has moved the Gujarat High Court alleging that the demolition was unauthorised.

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
Head Office: KSFC Bhavan, No.1/1, Thimmaiah Road Near Cantonment Railway Station, Bangalore - 560 052, Ph: 080 22263322, Website: https://ksfc.karnataka.gov.in

No.KSFC/HO/Admn/AMC-PC&PRT/2026-27/Admin-570 Date: 09.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KSFC invites e-tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (KPPP portal) for awarding the Annual Maintenance Contract of Computers and Printers at Head Office in Bangalore and Branch Offices located at all District Head Quarters of Karnataka. Calendar of events (1) Last date of submission of e-tender **23.06.2026 at 4.00 PM EMD- Rs.15,000/-** (2) Date and time of opening of Technical Bid **24.06.2026 @ 4.01 PM.** Tender details can also be downloaded from **www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in** EMD and Tender processing fee shall be paid electronically. If any modification/ changes to the Tender, the same will be published through KPPP portal only. For further details if any, please contact Dy.Manager (Admn) **080-22263322/ 9738615386.**

Sd/-
Asst. Gen. Manager (P & A)

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
MAHARANI CLUSTER UNIVERSITY
ಅರಮನೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001. Email:mcublr@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮುಕ್ಸವಿ/ಆ.ವಿ.–006/2026–27/30 ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯವು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

MCU/2026-27/IND0004, Date: 03.06.2026
Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Scientific Instruments & Computers Under PMUSHA Programme.

MCU/2026-27/SE0002, Date: 05.06.2026
Tender for Annual Maintenance Contract ICT Equipments at Maharani Cluster University, Bengaluru

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

Sd/-
Registrar

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/1061/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2026–27

The Social Audit Directorate
Mahamatha Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
First Floor, Abhay Complex, Slum Clearance Development Board Building, 55, Risaldar Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
E-mail: dir.sa.nrega@gmail.com, socialauditdirectorate2012@gmail.com

No: RDPR:1:SAU:EGS:2026-27 Date: 08-06-2026

Brief Paper Notification

Sub: Regarding filling of vacant post in the Social Audit Directorate, Bengaluru.

Ref: Social Audit Directorate Notification No: RDPR:1:SAU:EGS:2026-27 dt:08-06-2026

Applications are invited for filling up of vacant post of Manger -1 Post, First Division Assistant-1 Post, Account Assistant-02 Posts for a period of one year on contract basis in Social Audit Directorate, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department. Service of employee may be extednded further every year on the basis of satisfactory performance. Last date for submission of completed applications in priscribe form is 30-06-2026 up to 5.30 hrs.

Application formats and notification can be obtained from website: **http://sad.karnataka.gov.in http://rdpr.karnataka.gov.in** and fillied application may be submitted to the under signed office.

The Social Audit Directorate can be contacted for any further enquiry during office hours.

Sd/- Director
Social Audit Directorate

DIPR/CP/1072/AKAR/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01), Mayo Hall, Public Utility Building, 17th Floor, MG Road, Bengaluru-560001

No.: SADH(Zone-1)TENDER/01/2026-27 Date: 08.06.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term) (Single Cover and Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-01 (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for maintenance of Parks. (Standard tender document: KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4).

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 09, Hoysala Nagara Central. **Estimate cost:** 38,02,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 76,040/-. **Category:** Others.
2	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 12, Kasthuri Nagara Central. **Estimate cost:** 24,40,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 48,800/-. **Category:** Others.
3	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 13, Krishnaiahna Palya. **Estimate cost:** 13,03,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 32,575/-. **Category:** Others.
4	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 15, Indiranagara. **Estimate cost:** 18,00,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 45,000/-. **Category:** Others.
5	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 16, New Tippasanda. **Estimate cost:** 12,00,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 15,000/-. **Category:** ST.
6	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 17, Kaggadasapura. **Estimate cost:** 1,78,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 4,450/-. **Category:** Others.
7	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 20, Kodihalli. **Estimate cost:** 21,64,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 43,280/-. **Category:** Others.
8	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 22, Dommaluru. **Estimate cost:** 58,30,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 58,300/-. **Category:** CAT-I.
9	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 23, Jogupalya. **Estimate cost:** 24,75,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 24,750/-. **Category:** CAT-II(A).
10	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 25, Ashok Nagara. **Estimate cost:** 31,98,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 31,980/-. **Category:** SC.
11	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 27, Ambedkar Nagara. **Estimate cost:** 93,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 2,325/-. **Category:** Others.
12	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 28, Neelasandra. **Estimate cost:** 10,00,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 12,500/-. **Category:** ST.
13	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 29, Austin Town. **Estimate cost:** 19,20,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 24,000/-. **Category:** SC.
14	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No. 31, Shanti Nagara. **Estimate cost:** 12,00,000/-, **EMD Amount:** 30,000/-. **Category:** Others.

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification: **09.06.2026. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from: **11.06.2026. (3)** Pre bid meeting: **12.06.2026** at **11:30 a.m. (4)** Tender closing date: **25.06.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (5)** Technical bid opening date: **27.06.2026** at **11:30 a.m. (6)** Finanacially bid opening date: After approval of Technical bid. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01), BCCC

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru-560070

KPPP TENDER NOTICE

Single Cover System

Tender Notification No.: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/ TND/AE-3/16/2026-27 Date: 09.06.2026

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, for MLA, 4202 Toilet, PMSHRI GRANTS Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before dated: **25.06.2026** upto **4:00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
DIPR/CP/LC/1081/2026-27 **Bangalore Urban Dist., Bengaluru**

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/06/2026-27 Date: 06-06-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Medical Equipments for Nandi Medical College & Research Institute.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 10-06-2026

Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 22-06-2026 at 11.30 AM

Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 09-07-2026 before 5.00 PM

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 13-07-2026 at 5.00 PM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/1066/Adverto/2026-27 **Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Commissioner Office, BNCC, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.

No: BNCC/Comm/PSR(G)/132/2026-27 Date:09.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM – III
(See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation for **Construction of Storm water Drain from Yelahanka lake Waste Weir via Kogilu Cross to Jakkur lake CH:0.00 mtr to 2700.20 mtr Width of 35 mtr.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Joint Commissioner, Zone-2, MEI Layout Hesaraghatta Road, Bagalgunte, Bengaluru within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Sy. No./ Khatha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land	Dimension of the land / plot & extent in Sq.m	Boundaries of the land / plot				Building details			Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued
					Vacant	Built up	Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved Layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
1	Bengaluru Urban	Yelahanka	Yelahanka Amanikere	34/1	Vacant land		Developed	678.26	Sy No 31	Sy No 37	Sy No 39	Hissa 2	—	—	—	—	23000.00	Y H Narayana S/o Hanumantharayappa

Note : Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No: ನಆಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.09.2024. and as per the Circular No: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024–25. ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21.09.2024

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below :

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch office
Joint Commissioner, Zone-2, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Road, Bagalugunte, Bengaluru - 560 073.

Sd/- Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation

Sliding gate failure 'triggered' catastrophe at Vizag steel plant

Raw material quality under lens; Rs 25L aid announced

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

INQUIRY PANEL

- An inquiry panel set up to probe Vizag tragedy
- Experts flag substandard raw materials in steelmaking
- Steel Minister Kumaraswamy announces free education for victims' children and jobs for families
- Benefits extended to outsourced staff as well as regular employees

Preliminary assessment of Monday's deadly explosion at the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), also known as the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), points to a sliding gate failure as the likely trigger for the catastrophe, in which molten liquid steel erupted like a volcano across a radius of around 70 feet, killing several workers.

Along with an internal investigation, a three-member external inquiry committee led by the director-in-charge of SAIL's Bokaro plant has been constituted to probe the incident.

According to sources within the plant, on Monday evening, the shift in-charge authorised the movement of the ladle, filled with liquid steel, towards the casting machine after the converter process was completed. Once the ladle reached the continuous casting machine, however, the sliding gate — the mechanism responsible for releasing the steel — reportedly failed to open in time. Experts believe the resulting pressure buildup inside the sealed ladle caused it to explode.

"Before the slide gate could open to pour hot crude steel from the ladle into the tundish, from where it would have flowed to the caster, a sudden and severe explosion occurred," a senior steel plant official said.

Some workers and engineering experts are raising concerns about the possible use of substandard raw materials.

Union Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy, who visited the plant late Monday evening, expressed grief over the loss of lives. He announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 25 lakh to the family of every deceased employee — whether regular staff or outsourced workers — clarifying that this would be in addition to insurance, provident fund, gratuity and other statutory entitlements.

He also announced the constitution of a special inquiry committee comprising experts from other steel plants.

'Take care of your mother': Farewell video from the flames

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Heartbreaking accounts are emerging from the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant explosion, which claimed several lives and left many workers critically injured.

One grievously wounded worker, yet to be identified, fearing he would not survive, asked a colleague to record what appeared to be a farewell video.

It remains unclear whether he survived the mishap. In the video, he turned to his elder son, urging him to look after his younger brother, ensure both studied well, and take care of their mother.

The explosion occurred when a ladle carrying molten steel burst at a height of 25 feet, triggering a devastating fire. Temperatures at the site reached nearly 1,600 degrees Celsius, dramatically worsening the situation for those caught in the blast. Most survivors are battling third-degree burns.

Weekly off turns fatal

Among the dead are two men whose final acts of workplace duty cost them their lives. Nakkaraju Appalaraj, a resident of Donkada Rehabilitation Colony in Aganampudi, was a contract labourer. Monday was his weekly off, but officials reportedly called him in due to a staff shortage. He never returned. On Tuesday, his wife Mani, son Devi Varaprasad and daughter Hema Sri were seen weeping inconsolably at the mortuary.

Gontina Bhanukumar, a technician, was originally rostered for C shift. He swapped to B shift with a colleague to attend to personal work — a routine arrangement that proved fatal. Married to Lavanya just two years ago, Bhanukumar leaves behind a four-month-old son.

India decries 'police brutality' in PoK

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Tuesday came down hard on Islamabad for its "brutality" against people in Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) and called on the international community to hold that country accountable for its "abuses".

Randhir Jaiswal

India's reaction came as over 20 people were reportedly killed in police action on protesters in several parts of PoK.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, slamming Pakistan, said there have been "desperate" attempts by Islamabad to cover up its "failings" and deflect attention away from its alleged human rights abuses.

"We continue to see in this context a pattern of fake news and videos emanating from Pakistan. It is a desperate attempt by Pakistan to cover up its own failings and deflect attention away from its human rights abuses," he said.

"There are reports of severe police brutality in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which several protesters have been killed and many injured. We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," Jaiswal added.

He was responding to a question at a media briefing.

India's reaction came a day after Pakistan's human rights body said that it is "deeply alarmed" by the ongoing violence in PoK during violent clashes.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan also expressed serious concerns about the so-called regional government's decision to proscribe the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) under anti-terrorism legislation.

The JAAC has long been demanding the abolition of 12 "refugee seats" in the so-called Legislative Assembly in PoK.

The seats are reserved for refugees from Kashmir who settled in Pakistan after 1947. JAAC alleges that these seats were often used by mainstream Pakistani political parties to influence the formation of governments in Muzaffarabad.

India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over the recent elections, maintaining that PoK has been "illegally and forcibly" occupied by Pakistan.

Naga bodies release 14 Kuki hostages

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Naga organisations in Manipur released 14 Kuki hostages on Tuesday after 27 days of negotiations.

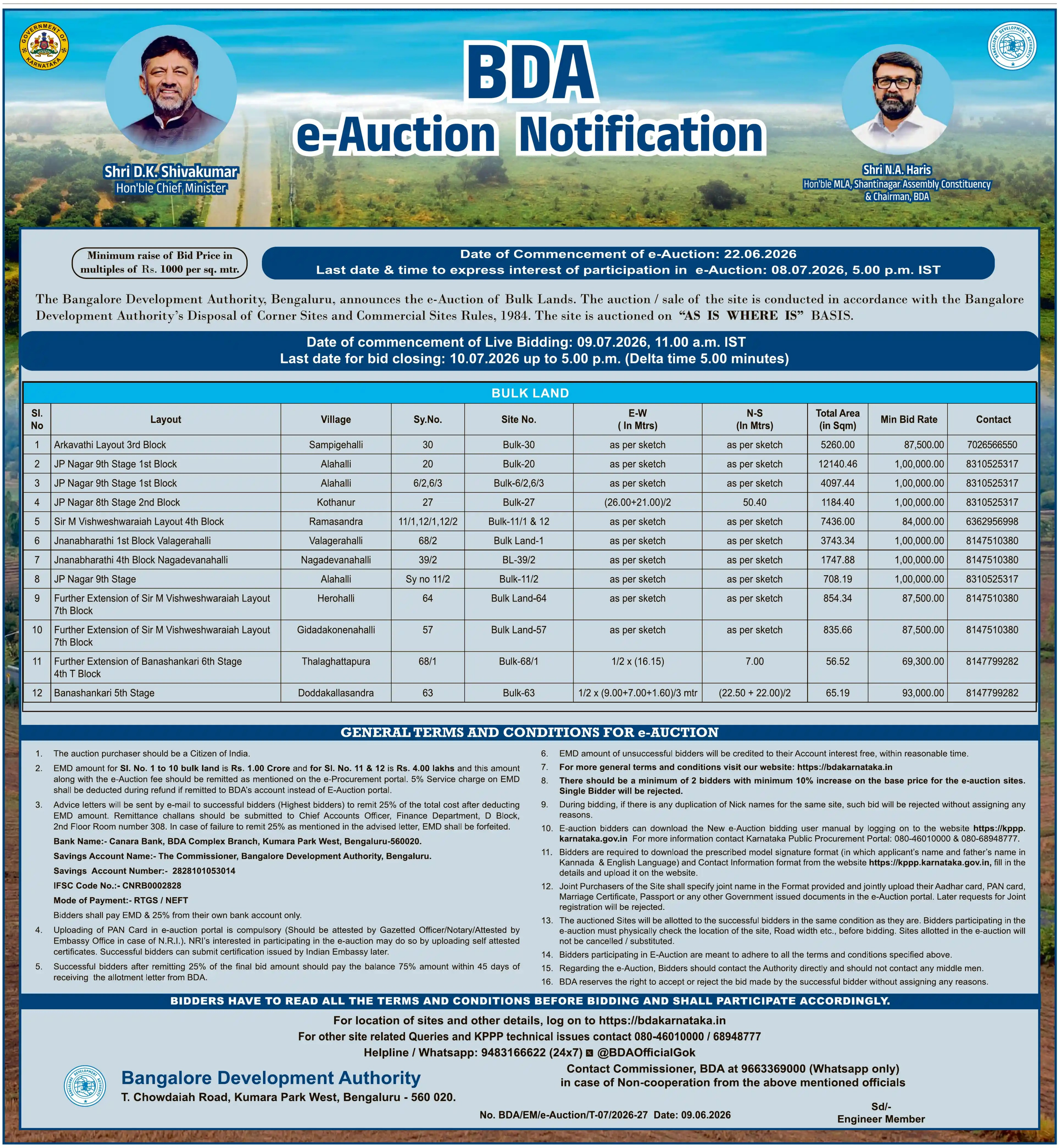
The organisations said the men, who were taken hostage on May 13, were released on humanitarian grounds and in response to the Centre's assurance on the safe release of the six Naga hostages.

The decision was taken after the United Naga Council (UNC) Manipur and church leaders intervened.

The 14 hostages are from Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi district. They were released in neighbouring Naga-dominated Senapati district, where they were held hostage.

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh called the development "a positive and humanitarian step", and lauded the Naga society for their role in securing the safe release of the hostages.

Welcoming the gesture, the Kuki Inpi Manipur told *DH* on Tuesday, "We will co-operate with the investigative agencies."


BDA
e-Auction Notification
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency
& Chairman, BDA
Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 1000 per sq. mtr.
Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 22.06.2026
Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 08.07.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST
The Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, announces the e-Auction of Bulk Lands. The auction / sale of the site is conducted in accordance with the Bangalore Development Authority's Disposal of Corner Sites and Commercial Sites Rules, 1984. The site is auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS.
Date of commencement of Live Bidding: 09.07.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
Last date for bid closing: 10.07.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)
BULK LAND
Sl. No | Layout | Village | Sy.No. | Site No. | E-W (In Mtrs) | N-S (In Mtrs) | Total Area (in Sqm) | Min Bid Rate | Contact
1 | Arkavathi Layout 3rd Block | Sampigehalli | 30 | Bulk-30 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 5260.00 | 87,500.00 | 7026566550
2 | JP Nagar 9th Stage 1st Block | Alahalli | 20 | Bulk-20 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 12140.46 | 1,00,000.00 | 8310525317
3 | JP Nagar 9th Stage 1st Block | Alahalli | 6/2,6/3 | Bulk-6/2,6/3 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 4097.44 | 1,00,000.00 | 8310525317
4 | JP Nagar 8th Stage 2nd Block | Kothanur | 27 | Bulk-27 | (26.00+21.00)/2 | 50.40 | 1184.40 | 1,00,000.00 | 8310525317
5 | Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout 4th Block | Ramasandra | 11/1,12/1,12/2 | Bulk-11/1 & 12 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 7436.00 | 84,000.00 | 6362956998
6 | Jnanabharathi 1st Block Valagerahalli | Valagerahalli | 68/2 | Bulk Land-1 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 3743.34 | 1,00,000.00 | 8147510380
7 | Jnanabharathi 4th Block Nagadevanahalli | Nagadevanahalli | 39/2 | BL-39/2 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 1747.88 | 1,00,000.00 | 8147510380
8 | JP Nagar 9th Stage | Alahalli | Sy no 11/2 | Bulk-11/2 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 708.19 | 1,00,000.00 | 8310525317
9 | Further Extension of Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout 7th Block | Herohalli | 64 | Bulk Land-64 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 854.34 | 87,500.00 | 8147510380
10 | Further Extension of Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout 7th Block | Gidadakonenahalli | 57 | Bulk Land-57 | as per sketch | as per sketch | 835.66 | 87,500.00 | 8147510380
11 | Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage 4th T Block | Thalaghattapura | 68/1 | Bulk-68/1 | 1/2 x (16.15) | 7.00 | 56.52 | 69,300.00 | 8147799282
12 | Banashankari 5th Stage | Doddakallasandra | 63 | Bulk-63 | 1/2 x (9.00+7.00+1.60)/3 mtr | (22.50 + 22.00)/2 | 65.19 | 93,000.00 | 8147799282
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR e-AUCTION
1. The auction purchaser should be a Citizen of India.
2. EMD amount for Sl. No. 1 to 10 bulk land is Rs. 1.00 Crore and for Sl. No. 11 & 12 is Rs. 4.00 lakhs and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of E-Auction portal.
3. Advice letters will be sent by e-mail to successful bidders (Highest bidders) to remit 25% of the total cost after deducting EMD amount. Remittance challans should be submitted to Chief Accounts Officer, Finance Department, D Block, 2nd Floor Room number 308. In case of failure to remit 25% as mentioned in the advised letter, EMD shall be forfeited.
Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560020.
Savings Account Name:- The Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru.
Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014
IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828
Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT
Bidders shall pay EMD & 25% from their own bank account only.
4. Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary/Attested by Embassy Office in case of N.R.I.). NRI's interested in participating in the e-auction may do so by uploading self attested certificates. Successful bidders can submit certification issued by Indian Embassy later.
5. Successful bidders after remitting 25% of the final bid amount should pay the balance 75% amount within 45 days of receiving the allotment letter from BDA.
6. EMD amount of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account interest free, within reasonable time.
7. For more general terms and conditions visit our website: https://bdakarnataka.in
8. There should be a minimum of 2 bidders with minimum 10% increase on the base price for the e-auction sites. Single Bidder will be rejected.
9. During bidding, if there is any duplication of Nick names for the same site, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.
10. E-auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: 080-46010000 & 080-68948777.
11. Bidders are required to download the prescribed model signature format (in which applicant's name and father's name in Kannada & English Language) and Contact Information format from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, fill in the details and upload it on the website.
12. Joint Purchasers of the Site shall specify joint name in the Format provided and jointly upload their Aadhar card, PAN card, Marriage Certificate, Passport or any other Government issued documents in the e-Auction portal. Later requests for Joint registration will be rejected.
13. The auctioned Sites will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the location of the site, Road width etc., before bidding. Sites allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.
14. Bidders participating in E-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.
15. Regarding the e-Auction, Bidders should contact the Authority directly and should not contact any middle men.
16. BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by the successful bidder without assigning any reasons.
BIDDERS HAVE TO READ ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE BIDDING AND SHALL PARTICIPATE ACCORDINGLY.
For location of sites and other details, log on to https://bdakarnataka.in
For other site related Queries and KPPP technical issues contact 080-46010000 / 68948777
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok
Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.
Contact Commissioner, BDA at 9663369000 (Whatsapp only)
in case of Non-cooperation from the above mentioned officials
No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-07/2026-27 Date: 09.06.2026
Sd/-
Engineer Member

DECCAN HERALD
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Choice, coercion, and an essential distinction

At the core of the Supreme Court's recent judgment on human trafficking and sex work is an important distinction. India's legal and law enforcement systems have continued to approach cases in both areas with a largely similar set of responses. The apex court's ruling can positively reshape these responses of the State, making it accountable for protecting the rights of women in either situation. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan noted that the Immoral Traffic [Prevention] Act (ITPA) has failed to recognise the rights of voluntary adult sex workers and ensure their protection. It noted that the statute's silence on the matter deepened the social stigma they face, resulting in their marginalisation and exploitation. The Court made an important observation when it said, "...the rights of sex workers can exist without there being a right to sex work."

The ITPA follows uniform processes to rescue and rehabilitate women, irrespective of their circumstances. Under its provisions, trafficking victims and voluntary sex workers are placed in protective custody before rehabilitation measures are initiated. The Court said there should be an initial inquiry before placing adults in protective custody. It stipulated that in cases of sex work, recognition of consent should inform rehabilitation decisions. Welfare measures cannot override individual choice. The central principle is that a person who identifies herself as a sex worker by choice has the right to practise her profession; the State cannot take that right away. Since the ITPA treats all sex work within the ambit of trafficking, it also leads to harassment of the very victims the law is meant to protect. The Court has sought from the government a re-examination of the legislative framework that conflates sex trafficking with sex work.

The SC separates trafficking from voluntary sex work, and pushes for rights-based protection and rehabilitation

Significantly, it prescribed to the State a new approach to trafficking. The Court emphasised rehabilitation, reintegration, and long-term protection of trafficked women. It directed that a victim protection plan be formulated, aimed at setting minimum standards for shelter homes and offering mental health support, legal aid, education, vocational training, and safeguards against re-trafficking. Trafficking of women is a multi-billion-dollar business within and outside the country, operated through organised networks supported by powerful interests. While dismantling these criminal networks will take strong, coordinated action, the Court's directives are aimed at addressing legal gaps through the lens of rights and dignity. These guidelines need to be followed up with political will and administrative capacity-building. Their impact will also hinge on a responsive and sensitised society.

A long-term strategy for coexistence

The death of Sandhya Achaya, wife of a senior police officer, in an elephant attack at her family's coffee estate in Kodagu has again brought Karnataka's escalating human-wildlife conflict into sharp focus. Her death is the eighth such fatality in the district in just six months. Across Karnataka, 53 people lost their lives to wild animal attacks during the 2025-26 fiscal year, a grim reminder that what was once viewed as an occasional tragedy has become a persistent crisis. The immediate response after every fatal encounter is predictable: drive the elephant away or capture it. While such measures may be necessary in specific cases, they address symptoms rather than causes. There is also a tendency to attribute the problem solely to shrinking forests, without addressing the real issues. Habitat loss is undoubtedly a factor, but not the whole story.

Paradoxically, Karnataka's conservation efforts have been successful. Elephant and tiger populations have increased significantly over the years. The more relevant question is whether existing ecosystems can sustain these growing numbers, especially when animals are concentrated in a few conflict-prone landscapes such as Kodagu, Hassan, Mysuru, and Chamarajanagar. Equally important is the quality of forests. The spread of invasive species, degradation of grasslands, and declining availability of food and water often push animals into plantations and farmlands.

Preventing human-wildlife conflict requires restoring habitats and preparing communities

The experience of Hassan offers valuable lessons. Instead of reacting after a tragedy, authorities there have invested in real-time monitoring, early-warning systems, village task forces, drones, and mass alerts. The objective is simple: eliminate surprise encounters, which account for the majority of fatalities. Similar systems deserve replication in other hotspots. Technology, however, is only part of the answer. Radio collaring can help track herds, but merely fitting collars on a few elephants is insufficient. Continuous monitoring, rapid dissemination of information, and swift ground-level responses are essential. Calls for translocating elephants must also be approached cautiously. Relocated elephants often attempt to return to their original ranges, creating fresh conflicts elsewhere. Likewise, domestication should remain a last resort, reserved for habitual offenders who pose a continuing threat to human life and cannot be safely managed in the wild. International experience points towards more durable solutions: protecting migration corridors, restoring degraded habitats, creating effective early-warning systems, investing in durable barriers and trenches, and involving local communities in conservation. Karnataka must move beyond crisis management and adopt a long-term strategy. The goal cannot be to choose between people and wildlife. It must be to create conditions in which both can coexist safely.

THE PRICE OF SUBSIDIES

A public goods pivot for Karnataka

The new Chief Minister has an opportunity to decisively re-envision the state's development strategy

AJAY SHAH AND K P KRISHNAN

We stand at an important juncture in the economic and political trajectory of Karnataka. A new chief minister takes office, opening a window to revisit the state government's policy strategy. The objective of state policy is to maximise the welfare of the people. This requires an objective assessment of the present situation, identifying constraints, and formulating a coherent strategy for the coming years.

In recent years, Karnataka has implemented five welfare schemes. Research evidence demonstrates that these interventions were implemented with unprecedented efficacy. Compared with the traditional Indian difficulties of subsidy delivery, where leakages and administrative frictions are the norm, the state machinery achieved high fidelity in implementation. The design and delivery mechanisms operated at a high level of performance.

However, a careful look at the macroeconomic evidence reveals genuine economic difficulties. The implementation of large-scale subsidies has generated unintended consequences. Labour market data shows a significant retreat of women from the world of work. When households receive unearned income, the reservation wage rises, leading to lower labour force participation with consequences for GSDP and employment growth.

When the state focuses its political and administrative capital on direct benefit transfers, the organisational machinery is diverted from its core sovereign functions. The opportunity cost of subsidy delivery is the neglect of land administration, policing, courts, and urban infrastructure. The fundamental driver of human welfare is economic growth. When private firms invest and hire, they create jobs and incomes. Government subsidies can never substitute for the economic growth that generates employment and prosperity. A state government cannot redistribute its way to prosperity. When fiscal space is dominated by transfer payments, the resources available for producing public goods are commensurately reduced.

The Karnataka of our dreams must be the host of choice for sophisticated corporations and migrants on a large scale. The movement of capital and labour into the state brings the energy of growth in jobs and income. To achieve this, the state must succeed in providing public goods. Urban policy is central to this transformation. Bengaluru is the engine of the Karnataka economy, but it suffers from severe infrastructure deficits. The objective must be to transform Bengaluru into a high-quality urban space. Furthermore, this urban strategy cannot be limited to a single metropolis. The state needs 25 other well-functioning cities to emerge. This requires establishing capable and empowered municipal governments, rational urban planning, and investments in public transit, water supply, and sanitation.

Public goods extend beyond concrete

and asphalt. Karnataka's nature and heritage are unique assets. These should be protected and showcased to build a powerhouse of sustainable ecotourism. The government must solve the five big components of pollution: solid waste, water contamination, air quality, noise, and carbon dioxide emissions. Simultaneously, the state must confront the slow-moving disaster of global warming, building resilience against climate shocks.

In health policy, the strategy needs to prioritise public health with an accent on prevention rather than cure. The state should focus on sanitation, clean water, and vector control, which yield superior health outcomes per rupee spent compared to healthcare. Social inclusion must be grounded in economic participation. Women and the young must be fully drawn into the public sphere, which means achieving jobs and incomes. True empowerment comes from independent income generation, not state transfers.

Rethinking public finance

The design and execution of this agenda require state capability. We must think in two pillars: how to organise and manage the process of policy reforms, and how to find the money.

The objectives described above require an emphasis on complex areas, such as urban policy and environmental regulation. The government needs to organise itself for policy reforms in new ways. The traditional bureaucratic machinery is built for administration, not for the design of structural reforms. Policymaking in a modern economy demands specialised expertise in economics, law, and public administration. The state must figure out how to bring new knowledge into the policy discussion and broaden the menu of choices available to decision-makers.

This requires the government to engage with independent research bodies and academic institutions to support the reform process. Institutional change is a marathon. The current equilibrium involves short bursts of excitement followed by a reversion to routine firefighting. The state must create specialised teams that can chip away at complex problems for years with sustained work.

Breaking new ground in these fields will also require resourcing. Currently, budget-making in the state, like in others, is a year-to-year exercise involving minor marginal changes. This incrementalism is inadequate for the scale of the challenge. What is required is an exercise in strategic public finance. We must think about the structure of revenue and expenditure in new ways and undertake a larger reallocation.

A reduction in non-merit subsidies and administrative waste will create the resource envelope required to finance public goods. This reallocation is politically complex but economically essential. A state with a narrow revenue base cannot sustain a sprawling welfare apparatus without compromising its infrastructure investments. Furthermore, growth-oriented reforms inherently bring money to the state treasury. Under the basic design of the Goods and Services Tax, higher consumption and production translate into higher tax buoyancy. When the state facilitates economic growth, the fiscal constraints automatically ease. Tax revenue is a derivative of macroeconomic expansion.

The time is short. The demographic dividend is closing, and the window for rapid economic catch-up will not remain open indefinitely. Building a successful Karnataka will require tremendous effort in both policy design and on-ground execution.

(Ajay is a researcher with XKDR Mumbai; Krishnan is a former civil servant. Both are associated with the committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka to advise on additional resource mobilisation for the state)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A stranger at the sixth lap

When it was time to exchange phone numbers, I paused...

RAM DIXIT

For months, my morning routine felt like a glitch in a software loop. My gated community in Bengaluru boasts beautifully maintained greenery and serene water bodies that anyone would envy. Yet, seeing the exact same picturesque views over and over again inevitably breeds monotony. In the late sixties, having retired from a lifetime in the IT industry, I wanted my mornings to feel genuinely expansive, not predictably confined. Living right next to a metro station gave me a digital pass to the city's green spaces, and I began exploring lake parks within walking distance to break the cycle.

My search for the perfect track, however, was a trial-and-error process. Konanakunte Lake became a frequent stop; I loved its earthy mud track, but the morning crowds began to feel like a peak-hour commute. Seeking tranquility, I made a maiden trip to the ISRO Layout Devara Kere lake park. While beautiful, its paved walking paths felt hard underfoot, and it was even more crowded than the last. I realised I was a purist: I needed the soft, forgiving cushion of a natural mud track. That is what finally drew me to the quieter shores of Gubbalala Lake.

Head down, lungs working, I was determined to test my stamina. By the time I hit my sixth consecutive lap, my internal monologue was a mix of pride and a desperate plea for a break. That was when a stranger, looking to be in his late forties, smoothly matched my pace.

"I've been watching you run," he smiled, delivering the ultimate track-side compliment. "You have great stamina!"

"Sixth round!" I puffed out, trying to look far more athletic than I felt.

That icebreaker earned me an unexpected running partner. As our sneakers hit the dirt in perfect unison towards the exit gate, the anonymity of the track dissolved. In a classic Bengaluru twist, the tech world caught up with us. It turned out he was currently navigating the tech ecosystem—the world I had left behind.

As we walked, Tridev confessed that he found continuous jogging incredibly tiring. I told him how I used to jog with my daughter, who became my coach. She taught me the golden technique: jog slowly, steadily, and sustainably. When the lungs protest, inhale deeply through the nostrils and exhale smoothly through the mouth. The secret, I shared, is gradual progression—build your distance slowly, and then maintain it by simply being regular.

Our conversation naturally drifted to the lake itself. I mentioned how much I liked the space, though it pained me to see very little water and a heavy growth of weeds. Tridev remarked that the authorities had cleaned the weeds a few years ago, but they had aggressively returned.

By the time we reached the main gates, we had exchanged jogging philosophies, debated local civic fixes, and snapped smiling selfies on our phones. When he warmly offered his phone number, I paused. There is a rare beauty in old-school city encounters. "No," I replied with a smile, "I will meet you another Sunday, right here."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I.N.D.I.A. must go beyond periodic display of unity

I refer to 'I.N.D.I.A. bloc vows unity against BJP-RSS' (Jun 9). The bloc's recent meeting sought to project unity and devise a strategy to counter the BJP. However, the alliance today appears significantly weaker than it was during the 2024 general election. To effectively challenge the BJP, the opposition requires far more than periodic displays of solidarity. It needs organisational cohesion, political credibility, a widely acceptable leader capable of confronting Narendra Modi, and a persuasive policy agenda that addresses the aspirations and hardships of ordinary citizens. The I.N.D.I.A bloc presently appears deficient on all these fronts. Beyond opposition to Modi, it lacks a unifying vision.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Ensure safety

This refers to 'The missing guarantee of equal classrooms' (Jun 9). That 60% of north Karnataka's government schools lack safe infrastructure is a verdict on decades of neglect. In Kalaburagi and Belagavi, 8,000 classrooms need urgent repair while hundreds are already condemned. Children in Raichur crowd into unsafe rooms because alternatives do not exist. Koppal and Dharwad wait for demolition and rebuilding. Labs, digital access, and toilets remain absent. Eight education guarantees sound progressive on paper, but without solid roofs and benches they remain empty. Funding gaps reveal the deeper fault. The region has produced chief ministers and national leaders and enjoys Article 371J status, yet children study under risk. Equal opportunity begins with equal safety.

Veda Chidanand, Bengaluru

DMK is relevant

The DMK is still very relevant at the regional and central levels of politics. It continues to represent its ideological stand and defend the federal structure. The party has strong leadership in Stalin and will do well as an effective opposition in the assembly and parliament. It may be left to feel betrayed by the Congress. But I.N.D.I.A. needs the DMK's experience.

Albert Smith, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

In 2013, Siddaramaiah was made CM after I lost the elections. I would have become the CM if I had won from Koratagere. But I was not destined. During the recent leadership transition, I was again confident, but for some unknown reasons, I was not made CM.

G Parameshwara, Karnataka Dy CM

Destiny is usually just around the corner. But what destiny does not do is home visits.

Carlos Ruiz Zafón

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

A Myanmar test awaits India

Realpolitik demands engagement with the regime, but India should not ignore Myanmar's democratic aspirations

VANSHIKA SARAF

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing's recent visit to India, his first international visit as a civilian President, has been a consequential development for India's neighbourhood policy. This comes after years of diplomatic isolation faced by the country's post-coup political order. By receiving him as a formal head of state, New Delhi has granted the newly elected regime its most visible stamp of legitimacy to date.

The visit may appear morally troubling, given Min Aung Hlaing's role in the 2021 coup and the ongoing civil conflict, but geography rarely gives states the luxury of clean choices. For India, Myanmar is too important to be sidelined. Not only does India share a long and porous border with Myanmar, but it is also the only land bridge to Southeast Asia. Sustained dialogue is therefore more useful than disengagement, which has been ASEAN's strategy since the 2021 military takeover.

The official agenda for the five-day India visit included border management, trade, connectivity, cultural exchanges, security cooperation, and broadening of economic ties. These are all legitimate Indian interests. Myanmar sits at the intersection of India's Neighbourhood First, Act East, and MAHASAGAR policies. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway are vital instruments linking India's Northeast to the Bay of Bengal and onward to Southeast Asia.

Security is the more immediate concern. The India-Myanmar border has long been a zone of insurgent movement, refugee flows, narcotics trafficking, and spillover from Myanmar's internal war. For Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh, Myanmar's instability is a persistent hurdle. To protect its border states, India needs operational channels with whoever exercises power in Naypyidaw, even if that power is contested and unpopular.

This is where the case for engagement is strongest. India cannot drive its Myanmar policy based on sanctions by the West or frustration within ASEAN for not respecting the Five-Point consensus. China is already deeply embedded in Myanmar's infrastructure, energy, defence, and mineral sectors. If India vacates the field, Beijing is bound to consolidate its position further.

Myanmar is also emerging as a critical node in the global competition over heavy rare earth elements, and India's interest in critical minerals is a strategic requirement. A country eyeing resilient supply chains cannot ignore a resource-rich neighbour bordering a vulnerable frontier.

But India must also be careful in its engagement. Maintaining channels serves India's interests, whereas offering political rehabilitation risks narrowing India's understanding of Myanmar to one military-backed leadership.

Complex challenges

Myanmar today is not controlled by one centre of power. Large parts of the country remain contested by ethnic armed organisations, resistance forces, and local political actors. A policy that engages only the Tatmadaw may produce short-term access but prove disadvantageous in the long term. Therefore, India needs a layered Myanmar policy. It should include official engagement with the state, while also maintaining backdoor contacts with ethnic actors and investing in development partnerships that benefit the country's citizens.

This is especially important for India's Northeast. The people living along the border have ethnic, kinship, and cultural ties across Myanmar. A hard security approach that ignores these realities creates resentment inside India while failing to stabilise the border. For example, in 2024, when the Indian government scrapped the Free Movement Regime and mandated the physical fencing of the international border, tribal groups and residents strongly opposed the change. Addressing internal security challenges while remaining sensitive to local communities is always a delicate balancing act.

While keeping these interests in mind, we should not forget that values do matter in foreign policy. India has long presented itself as a democratic leader with a civilisational identity. If India wants to be seen as a responsible regional power, it must show that its Myanmar policy is not entirely tone-deaf to the aspirations of the Burmese people.

The way forward is to engage with clarity across the board. India should push for border security cooperation, completion of connectivity projects, stern action against cybercrime networks, and access to trade and mineral resources. Simultaneously, it should expand humanitarian assistance, maintain contact with non-military actors, and avoid language that appears to endorse a closed political order.

India cannot afford to abandon Myanmar to China, nor can it afford to conflate the junta with Naypyidaw itself. A serious neighbourhood policy must deal with the regime of the day without closing its eyes to the country that may emerge tomorrow.

(The writer is a research analyst, Geostrategy Programme, at the Takshashila Institution)

Colonial consciousness and the blind spot of Western journalism

SADANANDA JANEKERE

When Indian leaders and Western journalists clash on the global stage, it almost always follows a familiar script. Whether it is a European reporter lecturing Prime Minister Narendra Modi on press freedom, international anchors grilling External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar over India's ties with Russia, or the recent tense standoff in Oslo where a Norwegian reporter demanded to know why the West should "trust" India, the reactions back home are instantly split. One camp says we should swallow the criticism as 'tough journalism' and fix our international image. The other snaps back, calling it a malicious, anti-India conspiracy cooked up by forces jealous of India's rise.

But blaming everything on 'malice' is too simplistic. Most Western journalists are not acting out of hatred; many work incredibly hard to get their facts straight. The real issue is much deeper: it is a mental block. The problem is not an inability to gather facts, but a deeply ingrained cultural lens that completely distorts how those facts are interpreted.

To understand why this happens, we have to look at what philosopher S N Balagangadhara calls 'colonial consciousness'. While theories like Edward Said's orientalism describe how the West actively constructed a patronising, exoticised image of the East to justify colonial dominance, Balagangadhara's framework goes deeper into the cognitive machinery left in colonialism's wake. Colonial consciousness is not merely a political attitude or a superficial bias; it is a structural modification of how we experience reality. Originally developed to explain why colonised societies uncritically accept Western descriptions of their own cultures as true, this framework equally explains the cognitive entrapment of the Western mind. It is, in other words, a subtle, invisible framework built during the colonial era that shapes how Westerners view themselves and the rest of the world.

It operates on four unexamined assumptions: First, the absolute belief that Western-style liberal democracy is the highest possible form of government. Second, the assumption that countries like India are simply lower down on a historical ladder, desperately trying to "catch up" to Western standards. Third, the idea that the West has a natural right to act as the global headmaster, grading other nations on human rights and freedom, and lastly, a total blindness to the fact that standard Western political ideas—such as rights and state sovereignty—are not neutral, universal truths. They are actually secularised versions of Christian ideas about how society should be run.

When a Western journalist analyses Indian democracy, they are not looking at an organic Indian polity; they are looking through a conceptual template built by Western history. They expect to see an atomic society of individualised agents interacting through a highly centralised, legally rigid State mechanism. When they encounter India's immense, overlapping pluralities, they perceive the resulting friction not as the complex negotiations of a deeply diverse civilisation but as a catastrophic failure of the 'system'. This is the ultimate blind spot.

Today, Western nations are struggling to handle even minor shifts in immigration, often spiralling into social fragmentation and anti-migrant backlash. Yet, they rarely pause to ask how a civilisation like India has successfully held together a massive matrix of languages, cultures, and religions for thousands of years—long before the modern State was even invented. By treating their own provincial experience as the universal baseline, global observers remain blind to other ways of living together.

This finger-wagging attitude is not new; it has shadowed Indian democracy since 1947. For decades, Indian diplomats travelling abroad quietly endured this moral lecturing with polite, defensive restraint, hoping for acceptance. Today, however, the response from New Delhi signals that the era of taking such lecturing lying down is definitively over. When External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar systematically dismantles Eurocentric double standards on global platforms—or when senior diplomats like Sibi George flatly reject bad-faith premises from foreign reporters—they are not merely executing a tactical foreign policy manoeuvre. They are demonstrating a profound psychological break from the expectations of the old colonial script. It is, in a way, a demonstration of civilisational confidence.

However, showing civilisational confidence abroad is hollow if we use it at home to dodge our own problems. Rejecting a flawed Western lens does not mean India is beyond reproach. We face real, urgent domestic challenges: preserving the independence of our institutions, protecting press freedom, and managing the delicate balance between different communities. But at the same time we have to be aware of the fact that by treating Western liberal democracy as a universal baseline rather than a provincial, culturally specific experiment, international observers remain blind to alternative modes of managing human coexistence.

Until global journalism outgrows its colonial consciousness, its critiques of Indian politics will continue to produce more friction than insight—leaving us with a discourse that is long on judgment, but entirely short on understanding. The point of shedding colonial consciousness is not to shield our government from criticism but to clean our own glasses. The goal here is not to score cheap political points or retreat into arrogant chest-thumping. The true aim is to ensure that when East meets West, it does so on a genuinely level playing field—as equals, not as a schoolmaster and a student.

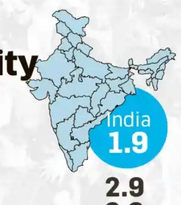
(The writer is a retired professor of political science, Kuvempu University, Shivamogga)

As birth rates plunge below replacement levels, several states face economic and political risks. They need to consider targeted incentives to encourage larger families

States of divergence: India faces a demographic reckoning

A V S NAMBOODIRI

Total Fertility Rate (2024)



Bihar	2.9
Uttar Pradesh	2.6
Madhya Pradesh	2.4
Rajasthan	2.3
Chhattisgarh	2.2
Jharkhand	2.2
Assam	1.9
Haryana	1.9
Gujarat	1.7
Uttarakhand	1.7
Odisha	1.6
Himachal Pradesh	1.5
Karnataka	1.5
Telangana	1.5
Andhra Pradesh	1.4
Jammu and Kashmir	1.4
Maharashtra	1.4
Punjab	1.4
Kerala	1.3
Tamil Nadu	1.3
West Bengal	1.3
Delhi	1.2

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's announcement of cash incentives for families having a third and fourth child marks a turning point in the implementation of India's population policy. It is a break from the national policy, occasioned by a demographic shift in parts of the country and arising from a recognition of the political, social, and economic consequences of that shift. Birth rates have fallen, and population growth has slowed. However, the policy aimed at reducing the population is now a matter of concern in some states. Naidu says "children themselves have become wealth," and society must work collectively to raise birth rates. Andhra Pradesh is not an isolated case. All states, except those in Northern and Central India (the Hindi-speaking or the Empowered Action Group [EAG] states), have seen birth rates fall below the replacement level in the last few years. All non-EAG states have a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) below 2.1, the replacement level of population.

According to the 2024 Sample Registration System (SRS) report, all states except the EAG states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand) have fallen below the replacement level. Among the major states, 11, including those in the South, East, and North-West, have a TFR of 1.5 or less; five have it between 1.5 and 2. The situation requires the non-EAG states to actively intervene to stop the slide. All EAG states have a 2.1+ TFR, with Bihar topping the list with 2.9.

China reversed its one-child policy in 2016 when its TFR was 1.6. It has further liberalised its population policy since then, as the TFR kept falling. Japan's rate was 1.54, and South Korea's was 1.57 in 1990; both have since fallen to 1.15 and 0.75, respectively. Countries have spent billions of dollars to reverse the fallout of population decline; most of them started counter-efforts when the TFR was near 1.5. These countries have learned through experience the limitations of technology and socio-economic policies in offsetting the damage caused by population decline.

There are lessons here for Indian states that grapple with ₹1.5 rates. They cannot ignore the risks of a steady population decline, given the national demographic scenario. SRS 2024 puts India's TFR at 1.9. But the demographic dividend arising from the increasing national population is staggering because of the EAG states' educational and social backwardness. These states are also industrially and economically lagging, which risks turning the demographic dividend into a liability to be disproportionately borne by the non-EAG states.

An economic and political exigency

Inter-state TFR disparities are changing the age composition of populations across states. While the EAG states will have a larger population of children and youngsters, the others will have a larger share of older people. The latter group of states will increasingly need to use their resources to support the elderly population. Such spending, it is feared, would adversely affect economic growth and may even nullify anti-poverty gains. None of these states has the resources of developed countries to support a rapidly ageing population. They receive neither compensation nor assistance in addressing issues caused by their changing population composition.

Developed countries got rich before they aged. India will remain more or less poor even when it ages. The combination of economic backwardness, social advancement, low fertility and ageing, and the unevenness of all these among different regions, will present the country with unprecedented problems.

There is a compelling case for non-EAG states to adopt an active policy to increase their populations. Andhra Pradesh has taken the first step. Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had called upon young married couples to have more children. In a racially, linguistically, and culturally diverse nation, there are multiple reasons for states to be concerned about depleting populations. Persistent attempts to impose uniformity in the country have made these concerns more acute. When pressures on the federal system threaten to weaken the states, the need to preserve the size of their populations becomes more urgent. Societies evolve in diverse ways – this evolution needs to be addressed in diverse ways, too.

A state's population is also significant for its political representation at the national level. The recent discourse on the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies has brought greater focus on parliamentary representation. Though the central government's attempt to enact a women's reservation bill linked to population was defeated in the Lok Sabha in April, the idea of reservation based on population is still alive. If the delimitation takes place based on the ongoing census after 2026, as the 42nd Constitutional amendment provides for, all non-EAG states are bound to lose seats in the Lok Sabha. Even a percentage increase in the total number of seats, as proposed in the women's reservation bill, will cause a relative decline in the parliamentary share and influence of non-EAG states. This prospect has created anxiety for those states.

Chandrababu Naidu's move has to be seen in this light. Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is part of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union government. He criticised the Opposition parties for not backing the delimitation-linked women's reservation bill, but is aware of the perils of continuing the current population policy. Other affected states, too, have reasons to encourage more child births. The TFR rates of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal are lower than Andhra Pradesh's. Notably, many countries revised policies to increase child births when they were at similar stages of population decline.

Transition necessitates new approaches

But can a policy shift help increase the population or, at least, arrest the slowdown? Not many countries have succeeded. For India, there is no precedent, because most countries haven't faced a situation where the population grows in some parts while falling in others. Population promotion policies and incentive packages may work better at the stage of development where Indian states are now. There is a rare country, like Hungary, that has reported some success.

Many countries have tried to address demographic decline through a combination of incentives for child birth and immigration. Migration from the North and the East to other regions is a reality in India and might help to address the problem of labour shortage. But this supply will shrink soon as the growth rate is falling in the EAG states too. West Bengal, which reports high migrant outflow, is in the red territory with a TFR of 1.3. Migration, in any case, cannot address the political problems and identity concerns. Each state may need to prepare incentive packages tailored to its unique needs.

The SRS data shows that India has divergent demographic realities that need to be addressed differently. States facing a serious demographic decline have the political, moral, and even cultural responsibility to halt the decline. Even the central government can revisit its population policy in light of the new demographics.

Decisions on the size of a family involve multiple considerations – women's agency, citizens' choice, career needs and exigencies, personal finances, support systems for healthcare and children's education, etc. This essay only argues that the demographic imperative of a bigger family should also be a consideration, along with these. Governments have the responsibility to promote the idea in the interest of the states at this critical point of their demographic transition.

(The writer is a former associate editor and editorial advisor of Deccan Herald*)*

Every cockroach has its day

MELANIE P KUMAR

As one who is extremely squeamish about cockroaches and signed out of biology, just at the dread of having to dissect the creatures, it seems odd to be writing this piece. But I suppose, like every dog, every cockroach also has its day.

It is unimaginable to think that none other than the exalted Chief Justice of India would have a say in the elevation of the reviled cockroach. He will go down in legal history as being the impetus for the creation of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

Intended as satire, its founder, Abhijeet Dipke, started the handle on X and found himself befuddled when the site was banned in India. Unfazed by the development, Dipke returned with a new handle, 'Cockroach is Back', accompanied by the tagline 'Cockroaches Never Die'! One can only speculate whether the blocking of these online accounts might have been the cause of the party's deciding to create an offline presence.

In its first public appearance, Saurav Das addressed the media, along with fellow spokespersons, Vijeta Dahiya and Ashutosh Ranka, who asked for accountability. Das, an investigative journalist; Dahiya, a political researcher; and Ranka, a filmmaker and former management consultant, onboarded just a few hours before the media conference. All three speakers blamed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for the NEET paper fiasco, as well as the CBSE's on-screen marking irregularities, and said that the peaceful protest of June 6 was intended to ask for his removal.

Dipke and many of us following the growth of this party seemed certain that the protest would not be allowed to go through and waited to hear of the likely arrest of the CJP's founder. The climate activist, Sonam Wangchuk, had indicated that he would join in the protest and threatened a six-month hunger strike in case the protest was not permitted.

That the heavy hand of the law did not come down on Dipke and that the protest went through peacefully might have been a surprise to many. With Dipke holding Ambedkar's autobiography and protesters being requested to carry posters of Ambedkar and Gandhi, it was clear that these two leaders were being united in death and that it might be hard for the Union government to erase or rewrite their legacies, courtesy of NCERT books and social media propaganda.

The fear of a further escalation from young people could well have led to the granting of permission for the protest. Of course, the rebuttals have already started with Nitin Nabin, the Bharatiya Janata Party president, and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS') magazine, *Panchajanya*, jumping in to do damage control. Accusations about the 'foreign hand' (interestingly, this term was first used by Indira Gandhi) and the BJP's most favourite word, 'anti-national', have started circulating.

The flip side of this story is how Muslim youth were exhorted not to join this protest, as they would likely become the fall guys. After 12 years of the BJP, it is sad to think that the community has othered itself for fear of repercussions.

The farmers' agitation was the first time that the BJP found itself on the backfoot. The CJP may now pressure them to confront the frustration of jobless young people, who are struggling to make a living. In a system that values education, many young people, including holders of doctorate degrees, are being forced to apply for the most menial of jobs. The CJP has now compelled the government to consider the injustice of calling victims of an unfair system cockroaches and parasites, while the real parasites are regularly sucking the system dry with all the power at their disposal. The removal of Dharmendra Pradhan is the first request that the BJP may be forced to confront. There are murmurs that he may be quietly eased into another ministry in a Cabinet reshuffle. Even that might be a victory for the CJP against a party that likes to brazen it out.

The missed biology lesson has caught up with me, as I discover that cockroaches have been in existence from the Jurassic Age and may be hard to dismiss. The Cockroach Janta Party is watching and waiting in the wings and will hopefully force the government's hand on other matters of consequence. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this David versus Goliath story.

(The author is an independent writer who is a keen observer of politics worldwide)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Joint Arab force to impose truce in war-torn Lebanon

Cairo, June 9
Syrian and Palestinian troops will join Algerian, Libyan, Saudi Arabian and Sudanese units in an Arab Expeditionary Force to police a cease-fire in Lebanon, an Arab League official said here today. He implied that certain contingents had already begun their mission and were now in Lebanon. Observers believed he was referring to Libyan and Algerian troops that were on alert last night and prepared to travel immediately to Lebanon (reporting earlier that Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Sudan have offered to send troops to Lebanon for supervising a ceasefire).

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

Paes-Bhupathi canter to title

Paris, June 9 (PTI)
Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi made a glorious comeback to the big league, clinching the French Open men's doubles title by defeating the Czech pair of Pavel Vizner and Petr Pala in straight sets in the final here today. The unseeded Indian duo, winners here in 1999, made a stunning comeback from 2-5 down in the first set to take it in the tie-breaker at 7-6 (7-5). After the teams had exchanged a break each, a break in the eighth game was enough to give the Indians a 6-3 victory in the second set for the title. This is the third Grand Slam title for the Indian duo, who had won the French Open and Wimbledon in 1999.

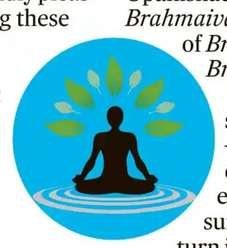
OASIS | MIRLE KARTHIK

Don't mistake the bottle for the medicine

The *Bhagavad Gita*, in its seventh chapter exhorts mankind to follow the path of minimising worldly desires and controlling one's passions to achieve inner mental purity and steadfastness which is the sure path to realise the presence of the universal spirit or power that inheres in oneself.

But, the obstacle in this path is the veil of ignorance or *avidya*, which deludes man into thinking that these material pleasures will bring him satisfaction and happiness, when, in reality, he further entangles himself in the noose of ever increasing wants, to realise which he has to struggle even more.

And this ignorance obscures the presence of the eternal divine in his heart. "Alas, such men of impoverished intellects (*alpamedhasam*) mire themselves in the pursuit of these impermanent worldly pleasures" rues the *Gita*, terming these pleasures as *Anyadevatas*.



"Those who run after these petty things get what they deserve -only insignificant rewards.

"But those who turn to me, attain to me in the end," says Lord Krishna. What is significant here is the Lord speaks, not as a being with human form and its attendant limitations, but as the supreme, omniscient, all pervading consciousness, what is termed as *Brahman* or *Atman*. So, by saying that those who turn to him will attain to him in the end, the Lord is echoing the Upanishadic statement *Brahmavid Brahmaiva Bhavati* – the knower of *Brahman* verily becomes *Brahman* himself.

The *Gita* uses another strong term *abuddhaya* – unwise people, to describe those who are so engrossed in material pursuits that they are unable to turn inwards , even if fleetingly , to self introspect and do some soul searching , whether all that they have accumulated so far and are still running after has brought them any real, lasting, peace of mind.

It must be noted that there is a difference between what is required to lead a life of comfort and dignity and hoarding for some future, imagined days. Needless to say, not everyone can be a saint and lead an austere life, but "try to harken to the call of the inner voice" says the *Gita*.

This inner spark is the *Avyakta Shakti*, the invisible power behind everything in this universe.

As revered Swami Chinmayananda says, it is the medicine inside the bottle that is important, not the bottle itself. "Strive for this medicine of inner purity" says the *Gita*.

CPM distances itself from ED probe against Pinarayi's kin

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The CPM has distanced itself from the investigation into the money laundering case involving former Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter, but extended support to its veteran leader, who is the opposition leader in the state Assembly.

The party's decision comes in the wake of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoning Vijayan's daughter for questioning and the criticisms that it faced following the attack on ED officials, who recently raided Vijayan's house in Thiruvananthapuram.

CPM state secretary MV Govindan told reporters after a state leadership meeting here on Tuesday that the party had nothing to do with the probe.

However, the party would strongly resist any attempt to target Vijayan, who is a politburo member of the party, he said. Other party senior leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas and former minister KK Shailaja, took the same stand.

ED has issued summons to Veena T and promoters and officials of the controversial mining firm, Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL), to appear at its office in Kochi on June 12 as part of the probe into the suspicious payments made by CMRL to Veena and her Bengaluru-based IT service firm Exalogic.

The Congress and BJP have alleged that even as the financial transactions were made to Veena and her company, the real beneficiary was Vijayan, who was the then chief minister.

CPM has countered the allegations, citing that leaders of other political parties, including the Congress, had accepted funds from CMRL.

Amid political churn, BJP eyes LS majority to revive delimitation push

Fresh efforts amid unravelling of Trinamool after Mamata's poll defeat

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Narendra Modi government would not hesitate to make another attempt at passing the delimitation bill if it secured the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, a senior BJP functionary said on Tuesday.

"We will bring it back the very next day if we have even one more MP than the required number," the leader said when asked whether the government was exploring reintroduction of the legislation, which was defeated during the special session after a united Opposition voted against it.

The remarks assume significance amid the apparent unravelling of the Trinamool Congress parliamentary party following Mamata Banerjee's defeat in the recent West Bengal Assembly elections.

A section of TMC MPs has indicated willingness to work with the state and central government "for the development of West Bengal". The group, led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, claims the support of two-thirds of the TMC's 28 Lok Sabha MPs.

However, the BJP leadership does not seem inclined to be associated directly with the TMC rebels. Experts have pointed out that the sections of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, or the anti-defection law, apply only to the original political party and not a breakaway faction.

Number game

Delimitation bill defeated in April, fell short by 54 votes

Trinamool rebel faction led by Ghosh Dastidar claims support of two-thirds of TMC MPs

BJP explores DMK support after Cong joined TVK in Tamil Nadu

The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, popularly known as the Delimitation Bill, proposed redrawing electoral boundaries on the basis of the 2011 Census and expanding the strength of the Lok Sabha by 50% to facilitate the reservation of one-third of seats in the House for women.

Introduced in April this year, the bill was defeated after the government fell short of the constitutionally mandated two-thirds majority by 54 votes.

Apart from support from a breakaway TMC faction, the government could also seek to open channels with the DMK, which voted against the bill alongside the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

With the DMK no longer aligned with the Opposition camp following the Congress party's decision to join Vijay's TVK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu, the BJP appears open to modifying the legislation to make it more acceptable to the Dravidian party.

One option under consideration is the inclusion of a clause committing to a uniform 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats across all states. Such a provision would ensure that the proportional representation of southern and other low-population-growth states is not adversely affected vis-à-vis northern states that have experienced higher demographic growth.

Even with the support of a rebel TMC faction and the DMK, the government would still require more than a dozen Opposition MPs to either cross over or abstain to secure passage of the bill.

'Seat theft' cry after rejection of Congress RS nomination

Meenakshi Natarajan accused of concealing info in affidavit

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress on Tuesday was in for a rude shock as Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh was rejected on charges of concealing information about a case in her affidavit, prompting her to call it "seat chori" and "muzzling of democracy".

Senior leaders KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Bhupesh Baghel, Sachin Pilot and Deepa Dasmunsi rushed to the Election Commission headquarters here and sat on an impromptu protest after they were denied entry into the premises citing lack of permission.

Later, the EC communicated that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would meet a delegation on Wednesday noon.

Memorandum

Venugopal and Baghel were later allowed inside to submit the memorandum, which accused the returning officer of rejecting the nomination without hearing Natarajan.

The Rajya Sabha election in Madhya Pradesh had turned curiouser with the entry of BJP's Mahesh Kewat as a candidate, forcing a contest and apprehension of horse-trading, as the saffron party required an additional 10 votes to ensure his victory. As per the existing strength in the Assembly, BJP can win two seats and the Congress one.

Congress leaders stage a protest after the Election Commission officials did not meet them following the rejection of nomination of Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan for the Rajya Sabha elections, in New Delhi. PTI

'Unsubstantiated'

BJP's Mahesh Kewat filed a complaint alleging that Natarajan hid information about a case pending in a Telangana court

Congress said an "incorrect allegations" have been made

> **Senior lawyer Vivek Tankha** said there was only a notice under Section 223 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and no legal case is pending

"What was limited to vote theft has now become 'seat theft'... Their intention has become clear. This is not about one candidature, there is a serious situation in the country. We will challenge this," Natarajan told reporters in Bhopal.

The rejection of the nomination came after Kewat filed a complaint alleging that Natarajan deliberately hid information about a case filed against her pending in a Telangana court.

Senior lawyer and Congress MP Vivek Tankha countered it saying he has personally examined the nomination papers and that she faces no FIR.

"There was only a notice under Section 223 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in which an applicant claimed compensation of Rs 10 crore from her and others. Natarajan objected to that notice, stating that it could not have been sent to her because she had no connection to the case. There was no crime registered, no FIR and no legal case pending," Tankha said.

J'khand RS polls: Jolt to Cong as BJP backs Nathwani

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP's support for a friendly corporate executive contesting as an independent in Jharkhand has queered the pitch for the Congress in the Rajya Sabha polls, endangering its candidate's prospects in a seat that was expected to fall to the party.

The Congress, which has four sitting seats among the retiring MPs, was expected to win seven seats, including a bypoll in Tamil Nadu.

Congress Media and Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera alleged that the BJP has fielded candidates in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh "with the intent of horse-trading".

"The PM, who advises citizens to consume less oil and not buy gold, will now set out to shop for legislators," he said, adding that the BJP would meet the same fate as in the Haryana Rajya Sabha polls, where it had to "eat humble pie".

The ruling JMM-led I.N.D.I.A bloc can easily win the two seats up for grabs in Jharkhand, but the entry of Parimal Nathwani — retiring as a YSR Congress MP from Andhra — has complicated matters for Congress nominee Pranav Jha. The JMM-Congress-RJD-CPI(ML)L combine has 56 MLAs in the Assembly, enough to secure victory for its two candidates. While the JMM nominee is certain to win with 34 votes, well above the 28 needed, Jha remains in the danger zone as coalition managers fear cross-voting engineered by the BJP.

Parimal Nathwani files his nomination in Ranchi on Monday. PTI

TRICKY ARITHMETIC

- BJP supports corporate executive contesting as independent
- Nathwani backed by 24 BJP MLAs, needs four more votes
- He was involved in construction of Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium

In the I.N.D.I.A bloc, Congress has 16 MLAs, RJD four and CPI(ML)L two, while the Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM) has one.

Nathwani has the support of 24 BJP MLAs and requires four more votes, with the JLKM legislator likely to support him. A senior Congress leader said that Nathwani needs four votes with the BJP solidly behind him, while Jha must secure all 28 MLAs' votes.

Nathwani (70), who worked with Dhirubhai Ambani and Mukesh Ambani, represented Jharkhand twice as an independent in the Rajya Sabha from 2008 to 2020.

Congress' reality check on Modi govt questions 'propaganda' & performance

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress on Tuesday excoriated the ruling BJP, questioning its performance and policies in the 12 years of the Narendra Modi government and assessing the impact at the grassroots level.

Rajeev Gowda, the head of the Congress Research Department, and Amitabh Dubey, in-charge of research and monitoring in the Congress Media Department, referred to the government's decision to slash the number of LPG cylinders provided to Ujjwala beneficiaries from nine to four and said Modi chose to strike this blow on families and women on the anniversary of his swearing-in.

Releasing a 75-page document, 'Prachar vs Hisab (Propaganda vs Accountability), Promise vs Reality', Gowda said though tall promises were made, none translated into anything meaningfully for the people.

> Twelve years of anti-poor economic policies and a compromised foreign policy have today pushed the country into such a dire situation where lakhs of poor families and women have been forced to bear the poisonous smoke of firewood stoves.
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

Growth 'propaganda'

On the government's economic measures, Gowda said the "propaganda" that India was moving towards becoming the world's third-largest economy reflected little in reality.

The country slipped from the fourth largest economy to sixth, rupee fell from Rs 83 in 2024 to nearly Rs 97 now and foreign investors withdrew Rs 2.1 lakh crore, he said.

Inflation was another contention that Dubey flagged, saying "from 2014 until now, the price of LPG has increased by 123%, price of petrol has risen by 44%, diesel by 73%, milk by 71% and pulses by 84%".

On further reality check, Gowda said four out of 10 graduates are unemployed and cautioned that the country could face a demographic challenge if quality job opportunities were not created.

Demonetisation fallout

The Congress reminded the BJP of the adversities caused by the 2016 demonetisation and how the move had a long-term detrimental effect on medium and small enterprises, with close to 40,000 MSMEs shutting down in the last financial year.

Gender gap

Countering the promise of equal opportunities for all, Gowda said India's rank in the Global Gender Gap Index has dropped from 108 to 131. Referring to the SIR exercise, Gowda raised concerns about the "deeply flawed" democracy, saying, "This is a real tragedy for every citizen of India."

Surpassing Nehru: NDA to mark Modi's tenure feat

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As the Narendra Modi government completes 12 years, and most notably 4,399 days in power, surpassing the elected tenure of the country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance is scheduled for Wednesday, where a resolution will be passed to this end.

A senior minister in the Modi government said an *abhinandan prastav* (resolution of congratulations) will be passed.

"We are expecting the presence of 72-75 leaders of the NDA, and a resolution will be passed recognising that Narendra Modi has been in elected office one day more than Nehru," the senior Cabinet minister said.

Modi took over as the 14th Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014. He will complete 4,399 days in office on June 10.

> Today, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi becomes India's longest-serving elected PM, the milestone represents far more than the passage of 4,399 days in office. It reflects the enduring trust of 140 crore Indians, the strength of our democracy, and the remarkable transformation of India into a confident, capable and globally respected nation.s.
>
> **AMIT MALVIYA**
> BJP IT CELL CHIEF

"Nehru was nominated to office in 1947, he was not elected. His tenure as the elected PM began on May 13, 1952, and he served as the prime minister till May 27, 1964, making his elected tenure 4,398 days," another Cabinet minister said.

While Indira Gandhi has been in power for 14 years, her tenure was not a continuous one.

The party has mounted an outreach blitzkrieg, including a series of meetings with senior journalists and media professionals this week, to highlight this.

Among the key achievements that it has highlighted include providing free ration to 81 crore beneficiaries, building 16 crore toilets, gas connections in 11 crore households, building 16 crore tap connections and 3 crore *lakhpati didi*s.

In the last decade, apart from a solid electoral push, winning states like West Bengal, and making key inroads into the North East, BJP has worked on ticking off the party's ideological agenda. This includes the construction of the Ram Temple, the abrogation of Article 370 and criminalisation of Triple Talaq.

Eight killed in blast at illegal cracker godown in Jaipur

JAIPUR, PTI: Eight people were burnt alive in a fire that raged after a blast at an illegal cracker godown here in the Khoh Nagoriyan area on Tuesday morning, officials said.

The fire erupted in a small house in Ayesha Nagar Talai colony, where firecrackers were allegedly kept, they said.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Vinod Sharma said eight people have died in the blaze.

Of them, five died during treatment at SMS Hospital, while one, whose identity was yet to be ascertained, was brought dead. Two succumbed to burn injuries at a hospital.

Jaipur Collector Sandesh Nayak said, according to preliminary information, combustible material stored inside the premises likely caused the fire. "... the exact cause will be established after a detailed investigation," he said.

The police commissioner said the house was being used as a godown for firecrackers, with a manufacturing unit in its vicinity.

PM to visit France & Slovakia, attend G7 Summit on June 16-17

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a week-long visit to France and Slovakia beginning June 13 to explore ways to expand bilateral ties and discuss pressing global challenges.

Narendra Modi

The PM will attend G7 Summit in Evian in France on June 16 and 17, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In the first leg of his trip, Modi will visit French city of Nice from June 13 to 14. He will also visit Evian and Paris from June 16 to 19, the MEA said. He will be in Slovakia from June 14 to 16.

"In the first leg of the visit, the Prime Minister will visit Nice for a bilateral meeting with President Emmanuel Macron on June 14. Both leaders will review the full spectrum of the India-France bilateral relationship, which was elevated to the level of a Special Global Strategic Partnership earlier this year," the MEA said.

In the second leg of the trip, Modi will travel to Slovakia for a State visit after concluding his trip to Nice.

This will be the first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Slovakia since its Independence in 1993.

In the third leg of the visit, the prime minister will participate in the G7 Summit in Evian on June 16-17. On the sidelines of the summit, Modi will also hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders.

In the final leg of the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Paris on June 18 for further bilateral engagements, and to attend the VivaTech Summit, Europe's largest technology and start-up event.

Mamata home, Abhishek office searched in signature forgery probe

KOLKATA, DHNS: The officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal police on Tuesday raided an office of the Trinamool Congress within the premises of party supremo Mamata Banerjee at Kalighat, triggering protests from party leaders.

A similar raid was also conducted at the office of Mamata's nephew and TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, at Camac Street in the city.

The raids were conducted in connection with the investigation into the allegation that the signatures of some of the newly elected Trinamool MLAs had been forged on a May 6 resolution, electing Sovandev Chattopadhyay as the leader of the TMC legislative party.

The CID officials, however, did not make any seizure during the raids, which continued for about two hours at the residence of the TMC supremo and for about three hours at the office of the party's national general secretary.

CID officials arrive at TMC party office adjacent to the residence of Mamata Banerjee, as part of an investigation into the alleged forged signatures of Trinamool MLAs. PTI

Mamata and Abhishek were in New Delhi when the raids were conducted.

"This (raid) is not being done in accordance with the law of the land. No FIR has been lodged against Mamata Banerjee, nor has she been called as a witness anywhere," Kalyan Banerjee, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, said. "This raid displays the vindictive attitude of Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari."

Kalyan rushed to Mamata's residence soon after arriving in Kolkata. The TMC legislators, Kunal Ghosh and Madan Mitra, also reached Kalighat. "This is vindictive politics. We condemn this. We are all law-abiding citizens. Everyone knows that she went to Delhi to attend an I.N.D.I.A bloc meeting. What is happening here in her absence?" asked Ghosh.

STOCKPILE SURGE

India deploys 12 nuclear warheads for first time, reveals SIPRI

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India, for the first time, has 12 nuclear warheads in a "deployed" condition unlike the past when nuclear weapons were a part of the military stockpile, according to a new report that hints at a shift in the government's position.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), in its Yearbook 2026, says out of India's inventory of 190 nuclear weapons, 12 are "deployed warheads", which means such warheads are either "placed on missiles or located on bases with operational forces".

The military stockpile, on the other hand, refers to all deployed warheads as well as warheads in central storage that could potentially be deployed after some preparation. The SIPRI didn't disclose how it arrived at the figure of 12 nuclear warheads in a deployed condition.

But the two previous editions of the SIPRI yearbooks in 2025 and 2024 didn't list any Indian nuclear warheads in the deployed category.

The country's entire N-inventory – 172 in 2024 and 180 in 2025 – was shown as a part of the military stockpile, as per the reports of the Sweden based institute that keeps track of arms sales and nuclear proliferation around the world.

In each of the last three years, China had 24 nuclear warheads in a "deployed" condition while its total inventory rose from 500 in 2024 to more than 600 in 2026. Pakistan has an estimated 170 nuclear warheads in its stockpile.

Of the total global inventory of an estimated 12,187 warheads in January 2026, an estimated over 4,000 warheads were deployed with missiles and aircraft. Between 2,100 and 2,200 of the deployed warheads were kept in a state of high operational alert on ballistic missiles. "Nearly all of these warheads belonged to Russia or the USA, and to a lesser extent France and the UK, but China and India may now occasionally deploy a small number of warheads mounted on missiles during peacetime," the SIPRI says in a statement.

"India is believed to have once again slightly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025 and continued development of new types of nuclear delivery systems," it notes.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Gadag.
Ph. : 08372-238782, E-mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No. : E.E.P.W.D.GDG./PB-1 & 5/Different Head/2026-27/817
Date : 09-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department. Division, Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of **08 Work of Total Amount of Rs. 848.00 Lakh (Min Estimate Amount : Rs. 2.00 Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount : Rs. 250.00 Lakhs) f**or the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 2, 3 and 4, through **http://www. kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Work Indent No. : Part-1, 27553/Call-2.

(a) Last Date for Clarification upto : 22-06-2026 (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : 23-06-2026 noon 4.00 p.m. (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : 24-06-2026 Financial Bid Date : 25-06-2026.

Work Indent No. : Part-2, 32764/Call-3, 32781/Call-3, 32783-SC/ Call-2, 35125.

(a) Last Date for Clarification upto : 16-06-2026 (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : 17-06-2026 noon 4.00 p.m. (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : 18-06-2026 Financial Bid Date : 19-06-2026.

Work Indent No. : Part-3, 33451, 33444, 36229.

(a) Last Date for Clarification upto : 30-06-2026 (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : 01-07-2026 noon 4.00 p.m. (c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date : 02-07-2026.

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

DIPR/Gadag/115/Manipal/2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of Assistant Conservator of Forest, 9th Cross,
Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru 560 011.

No: ACF/BSCC/TENDER/PR/02/2026-27 Date:08-06-2026

SHORT TIME TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2

(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Assistant Conservator of Forests, BSCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC invites Service Call-2 tender two cover systems from Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / FOREST / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the service detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Jayanagara Assembly Constituency (Ward No:7,8,9,10&11) Rapid Response Team. **Indent No:** BSCC/2025-26/SE0073/Call-2 **Estimate Amount:** Rs. 21,25,000/- **EMD**: Rs. 50,000/-
2	Jayanagara Assembly Constituency (Ward No:12,13,14,15&16) Rapid Response Team. **Indent No:** BSCC/2025-26/SE0074/Call-2 **Estimate Amount:** Rs. 21,25,000/- **EMD**: Rs. 50,000/-

Time Schedule: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from e-Procurement website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in From 11-06-2026 (2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **up to 15/06/2026 5:00 PM (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal**: up to 20/06/2026 5:00 PM (4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **22/06/2026 5:10PM (5)** Date and Time of Online Financial Opening of tender: When approval of Technical Bid. **(6)** Place of Opening of RFP: Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. **(7)** Address for Communication: Office of ACF, BSCC, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Palike Building, Bengaluru-560 011 Email id: **acfbbmpsouth@yahoo.co.in** Contact: **7019464699**

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Bengaluru South City Corporation

KARNATAKA STATE DENTAL COUNCIL

No.143, 5th Main Road, Rajagopalnagar, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560018
Phone: 080-2667 4068, Website: www.ksdc.in - registrar@ksdc.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Invitation of Sealed Quotations for Purchase of KSDC Building

The Karnataka State Dental Council (KSDC) has decided to sell its office building situated at: **No. 23, Appajappa Agrahara, Chamarajpete, Bengaluru – 560018.**

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from interested individuals, firms, or entities for the purchase of the above-mentioned property.

The terms and conditions of the sale, including the evaluation and acceptance of quotations, shall be determined by the Building Committee and/or Executive Committee of the Karnataka State Dental Council.

Interested parties may submit their sealed quotations addresses to the **"The President / Registrar, No 143, 5th Main, Chamarajpete, Bengaluru 560018" on or before 20 June 2026.**

The Karnataka State Dental Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Date : 09/06/2026
Place : Bengaluru

President
Karnataka State Dental Council (KSDC)
Bengaluru

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BANGALORE

NAAC A Accredited
Estate Office, Naik Bhavan, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065
Ph : 2330153-250 / Direct : 23332765
Website : www.uasbangalore.edu.in E-mail : eo@uasbangalore.edu.in

No. EO/SPO/e-Proc/3/2026-27 Date: 08-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KG-1 and KG-2 from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's/cloth bags.

Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for uploading the tender on 17-06-2026 up to 4.00 P.M. The Technical Bid will be opened on 19-06-2026 at 10.30 A.M. The Financial Bid will be opened on 22.06.2026 at 10.30 A.M** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in. Help Desk 09240214000/09240214001 support@eprochelpdesk.com**. The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

DIPR/CP/1069/AKAR/2026-27

Sd/-
Estate Officer

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka Regd. Autonomous & NABH Accredited Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru – 560069. Ph.: 080 22977400 / 500 / 600 / 216 / 217 / 276
E-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com Website: www.jayadevacardiology.com

No.: SJICR/2026-27/IND0063 DATE: 09.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for supply of a Trans Catheter Valve Systems for Percutaneous Valve Treatment on a consignment basis from eligible tenderers through KPP portal of Government of Karnataka.

The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **10.06.2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through KPP portal is **29.06.2025** up to **4:00 PM.**

(1) Date of Pre-bid meeting: **16.06.2026 at 11:30 AM.**
(2) Date of Technical Bid opening: **30.06.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
(3) EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
(4) For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
(5) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

DIPR/CP/LC/1070/2026-27

Sd/-,
Chief Administrative Officer I/c

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY

Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

Government of Karnataka

BIDAR CITY CORPORATION BIDAR

Phone: 08482-240432 Fax: 08482-240432
Web Site:www.bidarcity.mrc.gov.in E-mail ID:itstaff_ulb-bidar@yahoo.com, ka.bidar.cmc@gmail.com

No: BMC/HS/CR- /2026-27 Dated:- 06-06-2026

NOTIFICATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1) Name of work {DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT59474}:- hiring of power screen warrior 1200 and trommel machine on hourly basis for processing of municipal solid (for preparation of estimate),2) Estimated cost As per Kppp-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per Kppp-portal, 4) EMD amount As per Kppp-portal, 5) Last date for submission of tender **16-06-2026 upto 04.00 PM,** 6) Technical bid opening **17-06-2026 at 04.30 PM,** 7) Address for communication Commissioner, City Corporation, Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email : ka.bidar.cmc@gmail.com, 8) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/Bidar/55/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Commissioner
City Corporation, Bidar

PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KOPPAL

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jawahar Road, Koppal - 583 231,
E-mail : eepredkpl@gmail.com

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2026-27/500 Date: 08-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2025-26 CMIDP,2024-25 Flood,2023-24/2024-25 SCP/TSP, & Other heads in different talukas of Koppal district. This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

General instructions : 1) Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2) Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3) Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. This notified works can be downloaded in **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.

1) IMPROVEMENTS OF ROAD FROM NAGARAL TO TALUKA BORDER (YADDONI) VILLAGE IN KUSHTAGI TALUKA. IND 24597. APT 134.83 LAKS EMD 203000.00 6 Months. 2) CONSTRUCTION OF CD IN KADIWAL TO HANUMANAL ROAD VILLAGE IN KUSHTAGI TALUKA. IND 25727. APT 167.20 LAKS EMD 251000.00 6 Months. 3) CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT ROAD FROM 28 CANAL CHALLUR TO SOMANAL CAMP VILLAGE IN KARATAGI TALUKA. IND 26593. APT 200.98 LAKS EMD 301000.00 6 Months. 4) CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT ROAD & CD FROM OLD AYODHYA TO NEW AYODHYA VILLAGE IN GANGAVATHI TALUKA. IND 25728. APT 251.29 LAKS EMD 377000.00 6 Months. 5) CONSTRUCTION OF ASPHALT ROAD FROM HOSKERA BEERAPPA TEMPLE TO GADWAL CAMP VILLAGE IN GANGAVATHI TALUKA. IND 26592. APT 158.77 LAKS EMD238150.00 6 Months.

1) Tender Processing Fees: As per E-Procurement 2) Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal: From 10-06-2026 time after 10.00 AM upto 09-07-2026 time 16.00 Hours. 3) Tender Receipt last dates: From 10-06-2026 time 11.00 AM upto 09-07-2026 Time 16.30 hrs 4) Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works: 10-07-2026 in office hours. 5) Financial Bid open date and time: For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened.

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/146/Manipal/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No. KREIS/EE-1/Tender-4/2026-27 Date:09.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Only)

The Tenders have been invited for Construction of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School, Pre Metric Boys Hostel, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Post Metric Boys Hostel, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pre Metric Boys Hostel,** in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 604, 823, 826, 824 and 825)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on 09.06.2026. **The last date for receipt of tenders is 08.07.2026**. The details may be viewed at the above website.

Note : Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC//1062/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), BECC,
Old Madras Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru-36,

No: BECC/EE/ELE/QTN/01/2026-27 Date: 09-06-2026

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Electrical) Bengaluru East City Corporation on behalf of The Commissioner, BECC, invites rates from the dealers, manufacturers and contractors for the following items of work.

Sl No.	Description of Items	Unit	Quantity
1.	Releasing of Sodium vapor lamp fitting and Buyback of the Sodium vapor lamp (250 Watts) fitting in ward limits	No.	1

The Quotation Schedule is as follows. Further details can be obtained from this office in the working hours.

Quotation Schedule : (1) Date from which Bid is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of Government of Karnataka on **09-06-2026** (2) Last date and time for submission in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) is **16-06-2026** upto **4:00 pm** (3) Date & time of opening is **17-06-2026** at **4:30** pm (4) Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. **500/-** (Five Hundred Only)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)
BECC

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/1518 DATE: 09/06/2026

E-Tender/Short term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 2 works under head of account 3054-SH Bridge Maintenance, 2 works under head of account 4059-SCP (CMIDP), 4 works under head of account 5054-KRDCL, 1 works under head of account 5054-SH Improvements, 1 works under head of account 4059-CMIDP, 1 works under head of account 5054-MDR Improvements and 1 works under head of account 2216-Quarters maintenance, Totally 12 No.of works. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 6.00 and maximum of Rs. 260.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:

1) Pre-bid meeting date: 24-06-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 25-06-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 29-06-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 01-07-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids" 6) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-396/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

Govt of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/Klb/Div/TS-2/TN/2026-27/1253 Dated: 08.06.2026

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender of (KC-4, KW-2,3&4) works under KRDCL Bridge DPR Tender WI- SE1266, SE1308 KKRDB, CMIDP, KRDCL and Appendix-E WI- 34406, 35678, 35765, 36506, 36534, 36503, 36156, 36551, 36269, 36578, 36500, 36133, 36131 36501, 36499 & SC Category--36496 & 36130, in KPPP portal. 2) Estimated Cost: Estimate cost Min **Rs. 20.06 Lakhs Max Rs. 1600.00 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: PWD, Civil Contractor License Class-IV and above for Civil works Empanelled Consultants For DPR works, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per KPPP portal EMD Min Rs Rs. 375000.00 and Max Rs. 15,00,000.00, 5) Pre-Bid meeting: **17/06/2026 upto 11.00 Hrs**, 6) Last date for queries: **18/06/2026 upto 17.30 Hrs.** 7) Last date for submission of tender: **19/06/2026 upto 16.00 Hrs**, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **20/06/2026 upto 16.30 Hrs**, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid: **22/06/2026 at 16:30 Hrs**, 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**, 12) Bidders Should Note That: Note: 1) Undersigned reseres the right to Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process, Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Rejection of tender will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/199/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

Government of Karnataka

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS/2026-27/ 884 Date : 06/06/2026

NOTIFICATION FOR TENDER CANCELLATION

This office Tender Notification No. : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB/TS-1/2026-27/ 821 Date : 05/06/2026 tender called under 5054. Kalaburagi Rural Constituency 2 Works, Jewargi Constituency 1 Work and Sedam Constituency 1 work, Total 4 works Tender called. Due to Changes of CSR Rates 2 works of Kalaburagi Rural Constituency as mentioned below tender has been cancelled. Further No Changes in Terms and Conditions as per Notification, for more details visit website address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact Executive Engineer PRE Division Office Kalaburagi.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work and Indent Number	Amount put to Tender	Reason for Cancel
1	Construction of bridge from Wagdhari to Muradi village in Aland Taluka under 5054 for the year 2025-26 **RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT27098**	**66,33,829.38**	(Due to Changes of CSR Rates)
2	Construction of Road from Muddadga village to V.K. Salgar main road in Kamalapur Taluka Kalaburagi District under 5054 for the year 2025-26 **RDPR/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT27099**	**82,86,371.57**	(Due to Changes of CSR Rates)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/197/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited

PAPER DIVISION
MSIL House, 36, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052.
Phone: 080-22264021-25
E-mail: msil.paper@msilonline.com Website:www.msilonline.com

No. PD/Pq-01/2026-27 Date: 10.06.2026

Pre-qualification Tender

Invitation for Pre-qualification tender for empanelment as **"Business Promoters" for selling Company's Vidya/Lekhak note books, school bags and office equipments/printing solutions/paper related products to Government Departments and/or Government Institutions across the State of Karnataka.**

Last Date for Receipt of Pre-qualification Tender: **01.07.2026 at 3.30 p.m.** Visit website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for more details.

Sd/- General Manager (Paper Division)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ

ಬೃಂದಾವನ ಬಡವಾಣೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020
Email id: dmshtpkmysuru@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821-2515588 & 2515589

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಹೈಪಆ/09/ಸರಬ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.06.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-'ಸಿ' ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್-'ಡಿ' ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ AYD/2026-27/SE0221 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ **ರೂ.99.74** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರೀ-ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ನಂತರ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಆದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ನ್ಯೂಸ್ ಪೇಪರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು/ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ,
ಮೈಸೂರು-570020.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/283/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯ/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.948/OD/B/EE(E)/AE(T)/2026-27/F-159/1488-91 Date:09.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed tenders in duplicate are invited from Manufacturer/Experience/ Authorized service Agency for the following work.

Name of the work: Supply of 220KV & 110KV class 90KN Suspension type Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators required for routine maintenance of 220/110KV Transmission lines at TLM Sub Division Belagavi coming under Operations Division, KPTCL, Belagavi. **Specification/Particulars**: 220KV class 90KN (Length of Insulator: 2030mm) Suspension type Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators **Make:** KPTCL approved vendor. **Qty:** 65 No's **Specification/ Particulars:** 110KV class 90KN (Length of Insulator: 1015mm) Suspension type Composite Polymer Long Rod Insulators **Make:** KPTCL approved vendor. **Qty:** 120 No's

(1) Last date for receipt of completed bid is at **1:30PM on 17.06.2026.** (2) Date of time opening the bids on **17.06.2026 at 4:00 PM.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele).,
Operations Division, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP portal only)

No.CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2026-27/1846 Date: 05.06.2026

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

1) Replacement of 2x12.5MVA Power Transformers by 2x20MVA Power Transformers at 66/11kV **Pandavapura** sub-station in Panadavapura Tq. Mandya District on Partial Turnkey (PTK) basis including supply of all matching materials/ equipment (except 66/11kV Power Transformer and 11kV switchgear) and erection & including civil works of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning **CALL-4. Roster No.54. Reserved for OTHERS.**

2) Augmentation of 2x12.5MVA 66/11KV Power Transformers by 2x20MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers in 66/11kV **Kirugavalu** sub-station in Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District **on PTK basis. CALL-4. Reserved for OTHERS.**

3) Construction of 2nd circuit on existing DC towers from existing Jakkanahalli-Nagamanagala tap point to 66/11KV **G. Malligere** sub-station for a distance of about 1.36Kms with coyote ACSR conductor in Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District along with construction of 01 No. of 66KV Terminal Bay at existing **G. Malligere** 66/11KV sub-station for making LILO arrangement to Jakkanahalli-Nagamangala Tap point in Pandavapura Taluk Mandya district **on Total TurnKey (TTK) basis. CALL-3. Reserved for OTHERS.**

4) Radial arrangement to 66kV Ganjigere sub-station from 66/11kV Bookanakere sub-station for a distance of 0.1 Kms in K.R.Pet Taluk, Mandya Ditrict and Construction of 01 No. of 66 kV Terminal Bay at existing **Bookanakere** 66/11 kV sub-station along with providing metering and protection to 66kV incoming line at 66/11kV Ganjigere sub-station in K.R Pete Taluk Mandya District **on Total Turn Key (TTK) basis. CALL-3. Reserved for SC.**

5) Stringing of 2nd circuit for making LILO arrangement of existing 66KV SC tap line on DC Towers from existing 66KV Holenarasipura-Doddakadanuru DC line to the existing 66/11KV S/s at Mandagere using Coyote ACSR Conductor for a distance of 11.9Kms along with construction of 01 No. of 66KV Terminal Bay at existing 66/11KV **Mandagere** S/s in K.R Pete Taluk, Mandya District **on Total Turnkey (TTK) basis. CALL-2. Reserved for OTHERS.**

6) Providing 66KV 20.0MVAR Capacitor Bank at 66/11KV sub-station, at 66/11KV B.G Pura sub-station in Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District **on Total Turnkey (TTK) basis. CALL-2. Reserved for OTHERS.**

No.CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2026-27/1885 Date: 06.06.2026

7) **KPTCL/CEE/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2026-27/873 Date: 02.05.2026** "Tender for the work of modifying the existing 11kV 400A GOS to 400A roaster GOS by providing accessories (design, manufacture, testing, supplying & fixing) at various stations for operating the 11kV GOS in Open delta condition for providing power supply to EIP feeders coming under Transmission (Operations) Mysuru Zone".

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link "E Procurement" OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **10.06.2026**. Any other can be obtained for the office of the undersinged during office hours.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, N. R. Mohalla, Mysuru.

Govt allocates over Rs 95k-cr interim funds for rural job scheme

To ensure smooth transition from MGNREGA, says Minister Chouhan

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday announced an interim allocation of Rs 95,692 crore under the newly introduced Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Grameen) (VB-G RAM G) scheme to ensure a smooth transition from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that no state would see a reduction in funds and emphasised that rural employment and development activities would continue uninterrupted after June 30.

"Without causing any inconvenience to workers, we are moving from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Grameen) (VB-G RAM G). There will not be a gap of even a single day in the availability of work," Chouhan told the media after a meeting with state rural development ministers.

According to the Rural Development Ministry, Uttar Pradesh received the highest interim allocation of Rs 9,721.48 crore, followed by West Bengal (Rs 8,508 crore) and Tamil Nadu (Rs 7,585.49 crore).

The total allocation for states stands at Rs 92,550.17 crore, with Union Territories receiving Rs 1,291.52 crore. An additional Rs 1,850.62 crore has been set aside for central administration and social audits.

Chouhan noted that, including the mandatory state contribution, the total annual outlay under the new scheme would be around Rs 1.51 lakh crore.

The interim funds have been calculated based on the previous year's MGNREGA expenditure.

Procedural formalities

The minister said 26 states have completed the required procedural formalities for implementing the new scheme, while a few are still in the process.

Representatives from these four states attended the meeting and assured the Centre of timely compliance.

States have been directed to notify the state scheme, declare peak agricultural seasons, frame rules, complete e-KYC of beneficiaries, and conduct awareness and capacity-building programmes.

The NDA government had announced the replacement of MGNREGA with the new scheme as part of its rural development strategy.

CJI bats for mediation over arbitration for dispute resolution

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has emphasised at the growing importance of mediation in commercial dispute resolution, stating that it has evolved from being a mere alternative to a vital mechanism for achieving quick, amicable, and lasting solutions.

Speaking at the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom on the topic "Mediation, Arbitration and the Courts: Converging Trends in the Indian and English Approaches in Commercial Dispute Resolution," the CJI flagged procedural delays and complexities plaguing international arbitration.

CJI Kant noted that while arbitration was intended as a faster alternative to litigation, it has "over time become complex, costly and time-consuming" due to excessive judicial interference. "The primary question for a modern corporation should no longer be where to litigate, but rather how to resolve," he said, urging a shift in mindset among global firms and legal systems.

Describing mediation as a "restorative process" that preserves commercial relationships and reduces adversarial hostility, the CJI highlighted India's Mediation Act, 2023, as a significant step towards institutionalising the process.

Kerala meat traders' strike over falling cattle imports

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Meat merchants in Kerala are in crisis as cattle transportation from other states has been affected owing to "cumbersome" regulations and alleged extortion by vigilante groups.

A section of the traders has called for a week-long shutdown of shops from June 12 in Idukki and Kottayam, which are among the highest meat consuming districts.

According to the Meat Industries Welfare Association (MIWA), Kerala is one of the highest meat consuming states in the country. The number of cattle, mostly buffaloes, transported from other states has come down from 75,000 to around 25,000 over the last few months.

MIWA president Salim M A told *DH* that the key issue was procedural changes for issuing the Animal Husbandry Department's certificate for cattle transportation in Andhra Pradesh. Traders were not familiar with the online certification.

The restrictions on transportation of cattle for slaughtering from Karnataka is also aggravating the issues. The supply of cattle from Tamil Nadu already drastically came down.

Aggravating the issues are cow vigilantes, especially in Andhra Pradesh, where they are blocking vehicles carrying cattle. The groups extort amounts ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 47,000 per lorry, alleged MIWA.

The situation has not only led to acute scarcity of quality meat and price hike, but also led to sale of poor quality meat.

Even as MIWA had sent representations to the President, Prime Minister and Kerala Chief Minister, there was no relief yet.

21 AIADMK MLAs who backed TVK won't be disqualified: Speaker

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a reprieve to the "rebel" AIADMK MLAs, Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker J C D Prabhakar on Tuesday ruled that disqualification proceedings will not be initiated against 21 legislators who voted in favour of the TVK government led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay by defying the party whip.

Prabhakar said he was not proceeding with the disqualification of the MLAs after AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami wrote to him, stating that the legislators expressed regret for their mistake and could therefore be let off.

However, the Speaker said Palaniswami requested him to disqualify four MLAs who also voted in favour of the TVK government but have since resigned from their posts.

These MLAs—Maragatham Kumaravel (Madhuranthagam), S Jayakumar (Perundurai), P Sathyabama (Dharapuram), and Esaki Subaya (Ambasamudram)—have joined the TVK and are likely to receive tickets from ruling party to contest the ensuing bypolls.

"These representations by Palaniswami are under my consideration. I have initiated the process to act on his petitions. I will take a decision in accordance with the rules," Prabhakar said. The Speaker's action of not disqualifying 21 MLAs is a major reprieve not just for the legislators but also for the AIADMK, whose strength in the House will now be 43. If the MLAs were disqualified, the party's strength would have come down drastically.

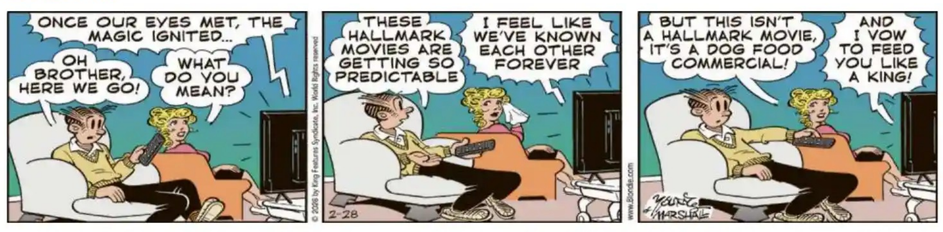
Prabhakar mentioned Palaniswami's representation on May 13 that 25 AIADMK MLAs, who voted in favour of the Vijay government, should be disqualified. However, Palaniswami sent four letters on May 27 stating that he accepted the legislators' apology letters and requested the Speaker to drop the proceedings against them.

"Under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, I reviewed the letters submitted by Palaniswami and decided not to proceed with their disqualification," the Speaker said.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


ONCE OUR EYES MET, THE MAGIC IGNITED...
OH BROTHER, HERE WE GO!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THESE HALLMARK MOVIES ARE GETTING SO PREDICTABLE
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOREVER
BUT THIS ISN'T A HALLMARK MOVIE, IT'S A DOG FOOD COMMERCIAL!
AND I VOW TO FEED YOU LIKE A KING!

Hagar The Horrible

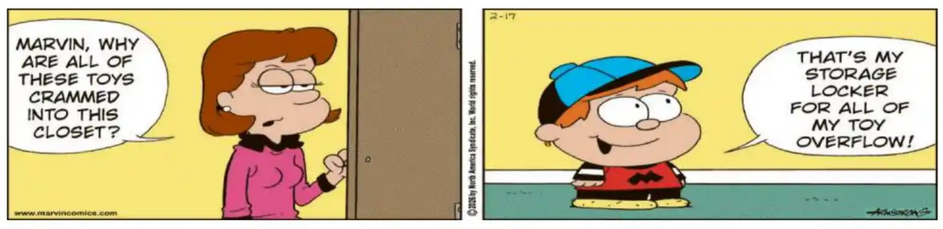
THAT WAS A GREAT BEACH VACATION! I'M TAKING HOME WONDERFUL MEMORIES!
NOT TO MENTION...
TAKING HOME BEACH SAND TO REPLACE OUR DIRT FLOORS!

Beetle Bailey

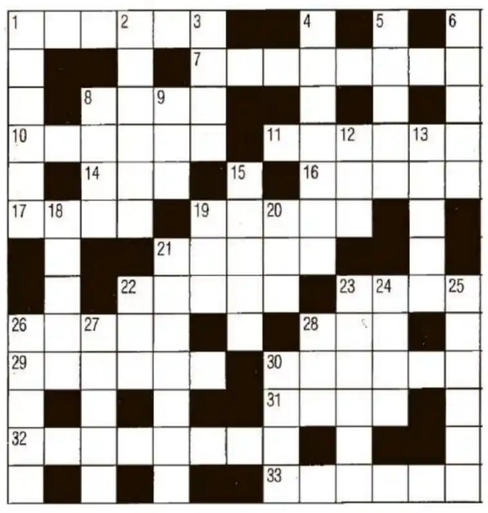
Peanuts

DON'T COME IN!
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I CAN'T PRACTICE PLAYING THE PIANO IF YOU'RE LEANING ON IT ALL THE TIME!
IF I PROMISE NOT TO LEAN ON YOUR PIANO, MAY I COME IN?
THIS IS BETTER ANYWAY!

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12435



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 A quarter hour in bed, perhaps, can make you late! (6)
7 Half finished in changing a fuse, I have to be chatty! (8)
8 He sounds less than judicious (4)
10 Tied up by a low leftist! (6)
11 Highway with wild trees at the junction (6)
14 He's familiar with a south part of London (3)
16 They can help with new ideas (5)
17 Having turned up, shoved into an outhouse! (4)
19 Charlie gets hurt, but may be lucky (5)
21 Devilish letter from a friend (5)
22 Joined forces with the boys (5)
23 If slimming, you can't live on half of it! (4)
26 Norma's new house (5)
28 Over there, a Yankee gets ahead (3)
29 Not accustomed to factory fresh (6)
30 Money man a gambler may depend on (6)
31 It's good when twice the usual length (4)
32 It makes for cheaper rice (5,3)
33 Leaned over as one mended a shoe (6)

DOWN
1 Accuses me of participation in sabotaging labs (6)
2 Used to getting insured without safety first (6)
3 Document deleted from start to finish! (4)
4 Funny sort of pie? (7)
5 Maybe it's over coloured and hackneyed (5)
6 Information about tip-top little creatures? (5)
8 Good-hearted bit of fun (4)
9 Little room for key points (3)
12 Not the whole perimeter? (3)
13 Strange, but it can help make you cheerier (5)
15 Cry at church, always (5)
18 But one could be in a rat race! (5)
19 Dicks rather than Bobbies? (3)
20 Also a Brando part (3)
21 Of service, but they can go to blazes! (7)
22 Not a nice message to send (3)
23 Give a chap tea, perhaps (6)
24 Dark and wet, possibly (4)
25 To drip in sluggish style (6)
26 A complaint when mother's about to finish up (5)
27 Whence, in old Africa, one could get a fancy bun and 1st class return (5)
28 Animal talk (3)
30 The twins in a spot of bother (4)

ACROSS
1 Purchased (6)
7 Mortgage (4,4)
8 Skeleton part (4)
10 Insight (6)
11 Shooting star (6)
14 Observe (3)
16 Stupidity (5)
17 Young males (4)
19 Paved area (5)
21 Flier (5)
22 Boy's name (5)
23 Additional (4)
26 Come about (5)
28 Dance, informally (3)
29 Expunge (6)
30 To badger (6)
31 Object of worship (4)
32 Lacking personnel or crew (8)
33 Come into view (6)

DOWN
1 Smear (6)
2 Garden figures (6)
3 At that time (4)
4 Advantage (7)
5 Hotel for drivers (5)
6 Enraged (5)
8 Occupied (4)
9 Born as (3)
12 As well, also (3)
13 Elder (5)
15 Cold dish (5)
18 Snow leopard (5)
19 Seize and hold fast (3)
20 Unit of weight (3)
21 An omen (7)
22 Regret (3)
23 Sullen (6)
24 Gemstone (4)
25 Guarantee (6)
26 Distinctive smell (5)
27 Ascend (5)
28 Wicked (3)
30 Conceal (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12434

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Brows 6, Pappy 9, Hearsa-Y 10, Strop 11, See-P.S. 12, Swiss 13, Sea lion 15, Guv 17, Only 18, Supine 19, Ha-bit 20, Terror 22, Slut 24, Hat 25, Martina 26, (lion) Tamer 27, Stout 28, Fit in 29, Righted 30, Hy-Ena 31, De-t-er.
DOWN: 2, Rott-EN 3, Who-lly 4, Sep 5, B-rown 6, Pass out 7, Ayes 8, Pop-gun 12, Sonar 13, S-O-uth 14, Alert 15, Gig-L-i 16, Vesta 18, Sitar 19, Horatia 21, Earthy 22, Stride 23, U-nwi-se 25, Meth-s 26, Turn 28, Fed.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Spuds 6, Jails 9, Italian 10, Messy 11, Vocal 12, Siren 13, Ill will 15, Sew 17, Gain 18, Figure 19, Spoon 20, Operas 22, Help 24, Our 25, Sutures 26, Aides 27, Piano 28, Agree 29, Nurture 30, Cheer 31, Crude.
DOWN: 2, Paella 3, Disown 4, Sty 5, Flail 6, Javelin 7, Anon 8, Loafer 12, Slaps 13, Igloo 14, Liver 15, Super 16, Weeps 18, Focus 19, Saviour 21, Punish 22, Hunger 23, Legend 25, Seats 26, Anne 28, Arc.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLAFS

ESEGE

SBPIOH

DSEUND

I thought more people would buy our paper.
I guess I'll make a going-out-of-business sign.
IN-CREASE YOUR FUN
THE COMPANY COULDN'T MAKE A PROFIT SELLING ORIGAMI, SO THE ---

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLAND ROBOT DILUTE PLUNGE
Answer: Their Thanksgiving dinner included a 20-pound turkey which was going to be — GOBBLED UP

◆ SU-DO-KU-6928 ◆

		5	8					3
	9	3	4	6		7		
		4					1	
			3	1	9		6	
	6		5	7	4			
	7					4		
		8		4	7	9	5	
4					5	1		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6927

9	8	4	6	5	1	7	2	3
7	3	1	8	2	4	6	9	5
2	5	6	9	7	3	4	1	8
1	7	2	3	8	6	5	4	9
8	4	3	7	9	5	2	6	1
5	6	9	1	4	2	8	3	7
4	2	8	5	3	9	1	7	6
6	9	5	4	1	7	3	8	2
3	1	7	2	6	8	9	5	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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F4	A1	A1	F4	I1	H4	C3	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 1
E1	I1	G2	E1	U1	S1	S1		RACK 2
N1	E1	K5	S1	O1	E1	P3	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
L1	O1	A1	O1	T1	S1	B3	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 60-70
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

A1	M3	A1	L1	G2	A1	M3	RACK 1 =	86
E1	X8	C3	E1	P3	T1		RACK 2 =	17
A1	L1	A1	R1	M3	S1		RACK 3 =	8
M3	I1	S1	D2	I1	A1	L1	RACK 4 =	70

PAR SCORE 115-125 JUDD'S TOTAL 181

HITORI-3382

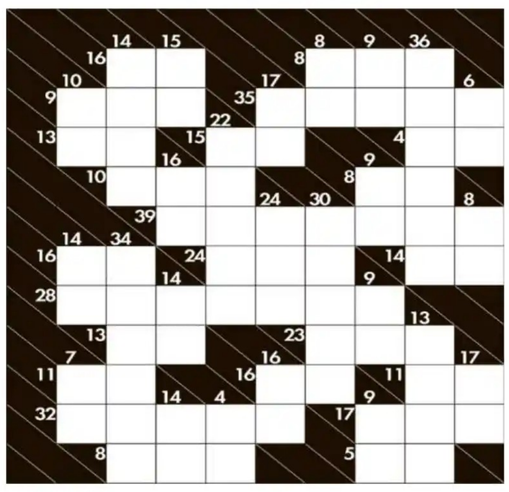
3	5	8	7	6	2	1	4
6	7	7	5	5	1	2	3
5	3	6	8	2	8	2	4
7	1	5	8	4	6	6	7
1	4	8	3	8	5	6	2
4	2	7	7	5	5	3	6
6	2	1	4	3	6	8	5
2	5	8	6	8	4	8	7

SOLUTION TO 3381

3	6	■	1	■	4	■	8
■	7	8	4	3	2	5	1
7	■	3	■	6	8	1	4
6	2	■	7	4	1	■	5
■	4	6	5	■	3	7	■
2	8	■	6	1	■	3	7
5	■	2	8	7	6	■	3
■	1	7	3	■	5	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3382



SOLUTION TO 3381

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3942

■				5				■
5	1		4	7			■	
	9	■			8	■		
			■		3	4	7	
				■		1		3
			1		■			2
		■		8	9	■		
	6						■	
4			6			7		9

SOLUTION TO 3941

8	6	1	7	3	9	5	2	4
9	4	2	6	5	8	1	3	7
3	7	5	2	1	4	6	9	8
6	8	3	1	2	5	7	4	9
2	1	9	4	7	6	3	8	5
7	5	4	9	8	3	2	1	6
4	3	8	5	6	2	9	7	1
5	2	7	8	9	1	4	6	3
1	9	6	3	4	7	8	5	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

ENERGY DRAIN

AI may consume 3% of global electricity by 2030, UN warns

Efficiency gains could drive higher energy and water use rather than reduce demand

HAMILTON, THE CONVERSATION/PTI

One argument often used to quell concerns about the rising energy and resource demand of data centres is that artificial intelligence (AI) models will need less in the future as they improve and become more efficient.

But this seemingly logical thinking is a trap, according to a new United Nations report that quantifies the environmental costs of AI.

The report estimates that by 2030, AI's energy use could double to consume 3% of the world's electricity, produce emissions equivalent to those of the UK and deplete more water for cooling than the annual drinking water needs of the global population.

It also anticipates that the use of AI will follow an economic principle known as the "Jevons paradox", which predicts that when technological improvements increase the efficiency of a resource, they lead to a rise, rather than a fall, in the total consumption of that resource.

The paradox is named after economist William Stanley Jevons, who observed this effect with coal use in 19th-century England. Efficiency gains did not reduce overall consumption. Instead, lower costs resulted in expanded use and higher overall demand.

As AI models become cheaper and more attractive, the report expects this to encourage new uses and higher volumes of use, eroding and possibly erasing any savings from efficiency advances.

To avoid falling into this trap, it lays out a roadmap for responsible AI use based on the guiding principles of transparency, efficiency by design, equity and justice, lifecycle responsibility, global cooperation and sustainable use.

Last year, data centres already consumed as much electricity as Saudi Arabia, which ranks as the world's 11th-largest electricity consumer. If electricity use doubles as projected by 2030, the associated carbon footprint would require 6.7 billion trees grown over 10 years to offset this demand.

Data centres would also require 9.3 trillion litres of water and land nearly 10 times the size of Mexico City.

Beyond resource use, the report also underscores the structural inequity at the heart of the AI boom, with only 32 nations hosting AI-specific cloud infrastructure and 90% of that capacity located in the US and China.

It warns of a widening digital divide between nations that build and control AI systems and those that consume them, with the latter often bearing a disproportionate environmental burden caused by mineral extraction and e-waste.

Two main forces shape AI's operational footprint: how much we use it and how we use it.

This involves all tasks AI models perform, from text and code generation to image and video creation. Each of these tasks requires different levels of computational effort.

Model choice also matters, as each AI system performs these tasks with distinct energy and environmental costs.

The report argues that responsible AI requires full value-chain governance, from mineral sourcing to recycling and safe disposal.

It calls for a twinning of capability and environmental stewardship, thinking about both what AI can do for us and the protection of the natural environment.

Indian-origin couple, son die after falling from London apartment

LONDON, PTI: An Indian-origin couple and their 9-year-old terminally ill son died after they fell from a luxury London apartment block in a suspected murder-suicide, according to media reports.

Rakesh Pai, 47, Aditi Paralkar, 46, and their son Sid died after falling from a balcony on the 36th floor of their apartment in Highpoint tower block in Elephant and Castle, south London, on May 27, the Telegraph newspaper reported.

The family lived in the 45-storey building on the 36th floor, approximately 400 feet from the ground, according to the Sunday Guardian. Neil Coyle, Labour MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, said Sid was born with "severe illnesses" and police believe his condition contributed to their "horrendous decision".

The family was found by the emergency services after witnesses reported at 7.29 am. Paramedics attempted resuscitation, but all three were pronounced dead at the scene. Coyle said in a letter to the building's residents that the deaths were an "awful occurrence", adding that Sid was thought to have had kidney disease. "It's a terrible tragedy, a family of three... The suggestion was that the child was born in the UK with severe illnesses, which the police inferred contributed to their horrendous decision," he said.

Trump blames Iran for Apache copter downing

US president vows response as drone boat rescues crew near Hormuz

DUBAI, AP/PTI

President Donald Trump blamed Iran for shooting down a US Army helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday and said the US must respond to the attack.

In the first known operation of its kind by the American military, a drone boat rescued the two aviators who were aboard the Apache attack helicopter when it went down near the critical shipping lane that Iran has effectively closed during its war with the US and Israel.

Trump said in a social media post that military officials told him "the Iranians shot down one of our highly sophisticated Apache helicopters." He added that both service members "are safe and uninjured."

"Nevertheless, the US must, of necessity, respond to this attack," Trump wrote.

The downing of the helicopter further strained a two-month ceasefire, a day after Iran and Israel exchanged fire for the first time since the fragile truce took effect. Iranian state television said on Tuesday that the Israeli attacks killed at least two members of the country's air-defence units. Since the US and Israel began striking Iran on February 28, the war has shaken the global economy, driven up energy prices around the world and made many essentials, including food, more expensive.

Smoke and debris rise following an Israeli airstrike in Tyre, Lebanon, on Tuesday. AFP

Officials have been unable to turn the April ceasefire into a deal to permanently end the conflict, particularly as Israel intensifies and expands its military campaign in Lebanon against the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah.

The crash happened at about 3.30 am local time on Tuesday off the coast of Oman while the helicopter was on patrol, US Central Command said. An unmanned boat located the two aviators after they spent about two hours in the water, said Capt Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for US Central Command. He said it was the first known drone rescue at sea by the US military.

Trump said he had just learned Iran was responsible before posting his accusation on Tuesday. Before accusing Iran of downing the US helicopter, Trump had expressed renewed optimism over negotiations with Tehran. "We have a good chance" of signing a deal in "two or three days," Trump said late on Monday.

Israel strikes Lebanon

Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes pummeled the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, killing at least eight people and wounding dozens more, in the latest sign that a new US-brokered ceasefire has failed to take hold.

Hours before the strikes, the Israeli military had issued an evacuation warning for the entire city, which was home to roughly 1,00,000 people before the latest war between Israel and Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militia, erupted in early March.

India trusted partner in quantum computing: US

WASHINGTON, PTI: India is a trusted partner of the US in areas such as quantum computing and supply chains, US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Sarah Rogers said on Tuesday.

Rogers is visiting India, Nepal, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to advance commercial diplomacy, cultural preservation, digital freedom and innovation.

"India is one of our trusted partners on things like quantum computing and supply chains, and I think that is an example of a concrete implementation of the Trump administration's priorities in South and Central Asia," Rogers said during an online media interaction from Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat.

Rogers was in New Delhi last month, where she spoke at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on the Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology (TRUST) initiative.

"I think this (TRUST) is one of many concrete deliverables that advance some of our really important strategic interests in the region," she said.

Rogers said she also met some of the exchange participants in the Quad framework to discuss fibre-optic cables and other critical technological initiatives in the region.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Riot police officers disperse demonstrators during a protest against a US-backed Ebola quarantine plan at a Kenyan air force base intended to host Americans exposed to Ebola, in Nanyuki, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Congo's Ebola death toll crosses 100; 550 cases detected

More than 100 people have died from Ebola less than a month after authorities declared an outbreak of the disease in eastern Congo, a grim toll as officials intensify efforts to slow the disease discovered weeks late, AP/PTI reports from Bunia (Congo).

Attacks on health workers from angry residents, scepticism among some locals and armed conflict in hot spots continue to challenge efforts to stop the Ebola outbreak declared on May 15, caused by a severe form of the disease. Out of the 550 cases confirmed as of Sunday, there have been 101 deaths and 19 recoveries, the latest situation report said late Monday. The outbreak is concentrated in Congo's eastern province of Ituri, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of the cases. Cases have also been recorded in the North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, and has spread across the border to Uganda. However, the number of cases in Congo is believed to be higher because the outbreak was confirmed weeks late and the contact tracing coverage rate, which has improved in recent days, is still at 64 per cent.

Philippine quake toll hits 37

Rescuers searched ruined buildings in the southern Philippines on Tuesday to ensure no one was still trapped a day after one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the country in a half-century killed at least 37 people and displaced more than 32,000, AP/PTI reports from General Santos (Philippines).

Only four people were listed as missing in official records in the southern provinces near where the 7.8-magnitude quake struck on Monday morning, but the Office of Civil Defense acknowledged that several collapsed and heavily damaged buildings must be thoroughly inspected for possible survivors or casualties. The earthquake, centred off Mindanao, the second most populous Philippine island, injured nearly 500 people and displaced more than 32,000, most of whom fled to emergency shelters.

The Patrouille de France conducts a flyover above the Statue of Liberty in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, in New York City, on Tuesday. AFP

India slams Pak over attack on Af

In a scathing attack on Pakistan at the UN, India has condemned its "trade and transit terrorism" and deadly airstrikes against Afghanistan, saying that dressing up a massacre as a military operation does not absolve the perpetrator, PTI reports from United Nations.

"Pakistan's campaign of military airstrikes against Afghanistan is causing huge civilian casualties and suffering to the Afghan people... Such unconscionable acts of violence are a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to the region's peace and stability," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Harish Parvathaneni said at a meeting on the 'Situation in Afghanistan' in the UN Security Council Monday.

Actor Bruel held over sex abuse

French singer and actor Patrick Bruel is in police custody over allegations by at least 13 women of rape, attempted rape and sexual assault, the prosecutor's office in Nanterre said on Tuesday, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

Bruel, 67, who has been in police custody since Monday, denies the allegations. The singer became a major star across the French-speaking world in the 1980s and 1990s with a string of hit songs that became part of French popular culture. He has also appeared in more than 40 film and television productions. The Nanterre prosecutor's office said in a statement that the investigation began after three women accused Bruel of sexual assault and attempted rape allegedly committed in 1997, 2000 and 2001. During the investigation, additional women were identified and interviewed. They reported allegations of rape or attempted rape, sexual assault and harassment, according to the statement.

Actor and singer Patrick Bruel arrives to attend the funeral ceremony of French-Danish actor Niels Arestrup in Paris. AFP FILE

PoK shuts down after JAAC protest call

Markets, streets deserted in different parts of the region

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Shops and markets remained closed on Tuesday in different parts of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) following a protest call by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), as more than 20 people have reportedly been killed in recent police action in the region.

About 2,000 protesters associated with the JAAC launched a protest march from Bhimber and were expected to reach Mirpur before travelling onwards to Muzaffarabad, BBC Urdu reported.

It added that some protesters would reach Rawalakot and then proceed to Muzaffarabad. Police and security forces personnel are patrolling roads and other areas.

The JAAC has been staging protests demanding subsidised flour and electricity. The group was outlawed on Friday by authorities, citing concerns over public order and security.

Streets in Muzaffarabad were deserted, with hardly any vehicles on the roads, Dawn reported. It added that riot police and paramilitary personnel remained deployed in the city. However, no protests were witnessed there.

The report said hundreds of people had gathered at the Quaid-i-Azam Stadium in Mirpur, another major town in PoK. "Shops are closed here, and traffic is off the roads," local journalist Sajjad Jarral told Dawn by telephone.

The legal fraternity in PoK boycotted judicial proceedings on the Bar Council's call to protest the alleged arrest of senior lawyer Amjad Ali Khan, a core member of the JAAC.

Police officials patrol an area amid the ongoing violence in PoK, where 11 people, including four police officers, were killed and hundreds injured during violent clashes, in Muzaffarabad, on Tuesday. PTI

Protests in front of Pakistan consulate in UK

Kashmiri protesters on Tuesday staged a demonstration in front of the Pakistani Consulate in Bradford, the UK, over the firing on mourners at a funeral in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in which at least 11 people were killed, PTI reports from London. This came days after 30 British MPs sought diplomatic intervention over the massive human rights abuses in PoK. Protesters on Tuesday gathered outside the Pakistani Consulate in Bradford and accused the Pakistani authorities of using excessive force against civilians participating in demonstrations across PoK.

6 security men killed in clashes with Taliban in northwest Pak

PESHAWAR, PTI: Six Frontier Constabulary personnel were killed and four others injured in clashes with Taliban militants who attempted to seize a check post in the Hassan Khel area, about 30 km south-west of Peshawar in north-west Pakistan, officials said on Tuesday.

Security forces successfully thwarted the militants' attempt to seize the Frontier Constabulary check post and killed eight terrorists on Monday, they said.

The militants launched the attack on the check post with the apparent intention of taking control of the facility. However, alert personnel responded immediately, triggering an intense exchange of fire, officials said.

Six Frontier Constabulary personnel were killed and four were injured, they said.

Additional contingents of security forces have been rushed to the area.

US offers fast-track visa interviews for $750

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The US State Department will offer a "premium" expedited service for foreigners seeking business or tourist visas to come to the United States, which will cost applicants $750 on top of the initial fee of $185.

In a notice to be published in the Federal Register this week, the department will unveil a pilot programme that will allow visa applicants to pay the $750 fee to schedule an interview appointment within 10 days of payment at select US embassies and consulates.

The pilot programme will run from July 1 to December 31, according to internal documents and a State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the programme has not yet been announced.

The move appears to be an effort to ease conditions caused by the Trump administration's push to make entering the US more difficult. The administration has cracked down on most forms of migration by foreigners, demanding bonds of up to $15,000 for visa processing in some, mainly African, countries and requiring years of personal history, including social media accounts, to be vetted. The new requirements have caused delays in visa processing around the world, prompting complaints.

Wait times for visa interviews for citizens of countries that are not part of the Visa Waiver Program can be several months or longer. However, paying the fee for the "optional premium add-on service" does not guarantee that a visa will be issued.The embassies and consulates where the expedited service will be available are expected to be announced before the programme takes effect on July 1.

Belfast knife attacker arrested

LONDON, AP/PTI

United Kingfom Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office called for calm Tuesday after police said they arrested a Sudanese suspect over a stabbing in residential Belfast in Northern Ireland that drew national attention because of graphic videos of the attack online.

Police said the victim was taken to the hospital with serious wounds to his face, neck and back late Monday. They said the suspect, who is in his 30s, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and remained in police custody. A kitchen knife was found at the scene.

Police were trying to determine the motive, but there was no information to suggest the attack was terrorism-related, said Ryan Henderson, assistant chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. He added that police were not seeking anyone else connected to the attack.

"This brutal attack will have sent shock waves through the community, causing real concern," he said.

Biz Bytes

Zepto FY26 loss widens to Rs 5,905.19 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Quick commerce unicorn Zepto reported a widening of net loss to Rs 5,905.19 crore for the full FY2025-26, from a loss of Rs 4,699.71 crore in the previous fiscal. Revenue from operations more than doubled during the fiscal, at Rs 22,623.58 crore in FY26, compared to Rs 11,109.94 crore in FY25. For the quarter ended March 31, 2026, Zepto narrowed its net loss to Rs 1,538.67 crore, down from Rs 1,831.91 crore in Q4 FY25.

HDFC Bank ups lending rates by up to 10 bps

NEW DELHI, PTI: HDFC Bank has increased the Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by up to 10 basis points across tenors effective June 8, 2026. The benchmark one-year MCLR has been revised up by 5 bps to 8.40%, as per the bank's website. The overnight, three-month, six-month and three-year tenor MCLRs have been raised by 5 bps to 8.10%, 8.20%, 8.35% and 8.65%, respectively.

AGNIT launches testing lab at IISc, Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gallium Nitride (GaN) semiconductor company AGNIT Semiconductors launched its new testing laboratory at IISc, Bengaluru, on Tuesday. Backed by a Rs 3-crore investment, the facility will boost the country's indigenous semiconductor testing and validation ecosystem for high-power RF (radio frequency) applications.

The lab will enable AGNIT to perform in-house PCB assembly, power amplifier board characterisation and qualification testing, with significantly faster turnaround times, the company said.

The company also plans to establish facilities to perform comprehensive accelerated lifetime testing and qualification of military-grade components.

SBI in $1 bn funding for Sun Pharma's US deal

BLOOMBERG: State Bank of India (SBI) plans to join a group of global lenders in funding Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd's $12 billion overseas acquisition, according to sources.

SBI is set to commit as much as $1 billion, the sources said. The proposal is pending board approval, the people added.

If approved, SBI will join Citigroup Inc, JPMorgan Chase & Co and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc as another key debt financier of Sun Pharma's agreed deal in April to buy US-listed Organon & Co, one of the biggest outbound transactions by an Indian company.

The move would be among the first sizable acquisition-financings involving a government-run bank since the central bank in February allowed local lenders to finance corporate takeovers. Domestic banks had previously been barred from such activities due to regulatory and asset-quality concerns, prompting many companies to rely on shadow lenders, foreign institutions, or public and private markets.

SBI and Sun Pharma did not respond to emails seeking comment.

Fitch Ratings cuts FY27 GDP growth projection to 6.4%

Expects US-Iran war to slow down economy

NEW DELHI, PTI

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday lowered its GDP growth projections for the current fiscal to 6.4% from the earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent, saying that the US-Iran war will slow down the economy in the September and December quarters.

Fitch said it expects a slowdown in economic growth in FY27 from the 7.4% clocked in FY26, as rising prices erode real incomes and dampen consumer spending, amid a resilient capital expenditure.

"We expect GDP growth to ease to 6.4% in FY27, a downward revision of 0.3pp (percentage point) from March. Domestic demand will be the main driver of growth, but lower imports in real terms imply positive contributions to growth from net external demand," Fitch Ratings said in its June Global Economic Outlook.

Last week, the RBI had cut its growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.6% and upped its inflation projection to 5.1%.

The rating agency said the slowdown in the economy will be most apparent in the second and third quarters of FY27, as rising prices due to the US-Iran war erode real incomes and dampen consumer spending. Fuel prices have both risen by 4-5% in recent weeks.

For FY28, Fitch expects GDP growth to pick up as the energy shock unwinds, with stronger consumer spending and investment translating to a growth rate of 6.7% for the full financial year, and ease towards trend growth of 6.4% in FY29.

Fitch has also lowered its 2026 forecast for global growth by 0.2pp to 2.4% as world growth prospects have been hurt by the oil crisis prompted by the US-Iran war.

"The oil price shock is hitting world growth prospects and increasing downside risks. But we are also amid a very pronounced boom in global spending on IT and that is cushioning the impact on activity in the near term, particularly in Asia," said Fitch Chief Economist Brian Coulton. "The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has now lasted 14 weeks and we assume it will not start to reopen until July."

Fitch has revised its 2026 average price assumption for Brent crude oil to $87 per barrel (bbl), up from the $70/bbl estimated in March.

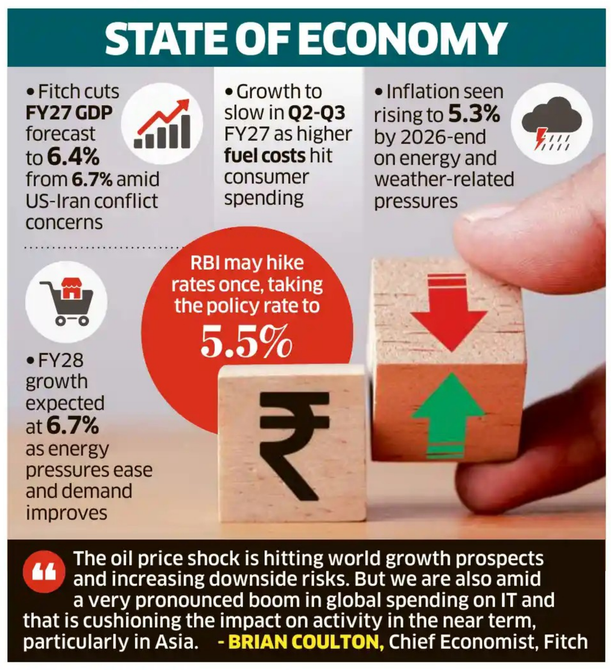
The oil shock is a strong headwind to world growth, but its base case is far-less severe than the pernicious oil shocks of the 1970s. Real oil prices reached $170/bbl in 1979 (measured in current prices) and OPEC played a very different role then. Oil consumption as a share of world GDP has halved since 1980.

Fitch said India's consumer price inflation has not yet risen significantly, but price pressures are mounting; wholesale prices rose by 8.3% YoY in April and CPI inflation to 3.5%.

"We expect inflation to rise steadily over the months ahead, reaching 5.3% by the end of the (calendar) year. This reflects a combination of base effects and higher energy prices. Forecasts for below-average monsoon rains and the current heatwave in parts of India raise the risk of even stronger price rises," Fitch said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its policy rate at 5.25% in April. But Fitch expects RBI to change course and increase rates once this year to 5.5% to address the rising price pressures from the adverse supply shock.

"We do not expect a further, significant depreciation in the Indian rupee over the rest of the year," Fitch said. The global rating agency expects the exchange rate to average 97.50 to a dollar in current fiscal.


STATE OF ECONOMY
• Fitch cuts FY27 GDP forecast to 6.4% from 6.7% amid US-Iran conflict concerns
• Growth to slow in Q2-Q3 FY27 as higher fuel costs hit consumer spending
• Inflation seen rising to 5.3% by 2026-end on energy and weather-related pressures
RBI may hike rates once, taking the policy rate to 5.5%
• FY28 growth expected at 6.7% as energy pressures ease and demand improves
The oil price shock is hitting world growth prospects and increasing downside risks. But we are also amid a very pronounced boom in global spending on IT and that is cushioning the impact on activity in the near term, particularly in Asia. - BRIAN COULTON, Chief Economist, Fitch

ATF prices rise 10% as oil firms roll out fixed pricing

Non-participating airlines could face higher costs during spikes

NEW DELHI, PTI

Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices were raised by around 10% on Tuesday, as state-owned fuel retailers rolled out a price stabilisation regime, offering domestic airlines a fixed fuel rate for up to three years, in a move aimed at shielding carriers and passengers from sharp swings in global oil prices.

Jet fuel for domestic airlines will now cost Rs 115 per litre, up from Rs 104.927, sources said. The new rate will be locked in for up to three years for airlines that opt to participate in the government-backed price stabilisation scheme.

Airlines that do not opt for the scheme will pay market-linked prices, currently around Rs 142 per litre, similar to international carriers.

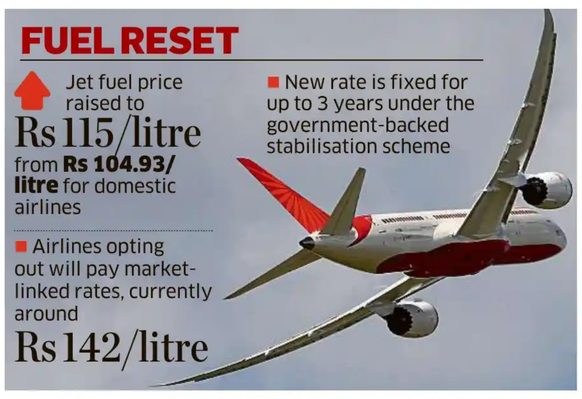
Those opting into the price stabilisation scheme will continue to receive ATF at Rs 115 per litre, insulated from global benchmark fluctuations. While non-participating carriers will benefit from price declines, they will also face higher costs when international rates rise.

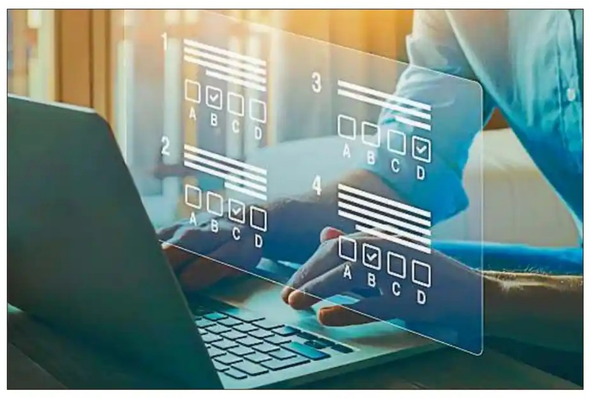
Sources said the scheme is completely voluntary, and airlines will have to take a call if they want to participate in it.

Under the voluntary scheme, participating airlines will pay a fixed free-on-board (FOB) benchmark price of Rs 86.32 per litre, plus airport charges, oil company margins and applicable taxes, resulting in an effective selling price of Rs 115 per litre in Delhi, Rs 114.5 in Mumbai and Rs 139 in Chennai.

The new rate compares with a below-market level of about Rs 105 per litre in Delhi, which had remained unchanged for more than two months after the government allowed only a partial pass-through of higher global fuel costs triggered by the outbreak of the West Asia conflict in late February. The freeze had led to losses for OMCs on ATF, similar to pressures seen in petrol, diesel and LPG segments.

To address these losses, the Union Cabinet approved a Rs 10,000-crore price stabilisation scheme aimed at capping ATF prices and shielding airlines from volatility linked to geopolitical tensions, while also supporting the financial health of state-owned oil companies. Under the scheme, whenever global benchmark prices rise above the base rate of Rs 86.32, the government will provide an interest-free advance to OMCs to cover the difference.


FUEL RESET
Jet fuel price raised to Rs 115/litre from Rs 104.93/litre for domestic airlines
New rate is fixed for up to 3 years under the government-backed stabilisation scheme
Airlines opting out will pay market-linked rates, currently around Rs 142/litre



Online assessment malpractice remains big threat in IT industry

BENGALURU, DHNS: Online assessment malpractice has evolved so much that IT services firm Infosys has to defer its recruitment assessments for 20,000 job applicants. The assessment was originally scheduled for May 31.

HR experts pointed out the growing assessment malpractice that involves candidates using earpieces to access AI tools, even in the case of in-person evaluation.

"The online hiring exam and the in-person evaluation for the Specialist Programmer and Digital Systems Engineer roles have been deferred. We have informed all affected candidates and will communicate the revised schedules once they are finalised. We sincerely appreciate the understanding, patience, and continued enthusiasm shown by candidates in pursuing career opportunities with Infosys. This deferment does not impact our hiring commitments, and we remain focused on identifying, hiring, and nurturing top talent," Infosys said in a statement.

According to sources, these candidates also included experienced professionals and not just freshers.

Online assessment malpractice has evolved alongside remote hiring. Candidates may attempt to use secondary devices such as mobile phones, tablets, or additional laptops positioned outside the webcam's field of view to search for answers during assessments. In some cases, they receive realtime assistance from another individual who is either present off-camera or connected remotely, Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO of CIEL HR, said.

Pradeip Agarwal, Co-founder, Stratbeans, an AI-driven learning and assessment solution provider, said that in most corporate and hiring assessments, the common forms of cheating are not highly-sophisticated. Typically, candidates may ask someone else to complete the assessment on their behalf, seek assistance from a colleague or friend while taking the test, browse external websites for answers, refer to notes or documents, or use AI tools to generate responses. In some cases, candidates may remain present on camera during the assessment, while simultaneously receiving guidance from another person sitting nearby or communicating through a secondary device such as a mobile phone.

Gold tariff hike fuels smuggling revival, say bullion dealers

MUMBAI, REUTERS

India's sharp increase in gold import tariffs is fuelling a resurgence in smuggling that could exceed 100 metric tonnes this year, as soaring grey market margins allow smugglers to undercut banks and refiners of the precious metal, industry officials and bullion dealers said. India, doubled import tariffs to 15% in May to curb demand, cut the trade deficit and ease pressure on the rupee. But the move has created an opportunity for smugglers who are able to offer prices, legitimate importers cannot match, they said. The grey market discount has gone beyond $200 per ounce, or more than 4%, said a Mumbai-based bullion division head at a private gold importing bank, adding that banks were unable to offer even a $10 discount, let alone one of three digits.

The recent resurgence in the grey market suggests illegal imports could exceed 100 tonnes in 2026, said another dealer.

Four other dealers interviewed by Reuters shared the view that illegal gold imports could exceed 100 tonnes in 2026.

At current prices, 100 tonnes of gold would be worth about $14.35 billion, implying roughly $2.65 billion in lost tariffs and sales tax.

Smugglers can offer steep discounts because they do not pay taxes on gold, including import tariffs and goods and services tax that total 18.45%, the bullion dealers said.

Gold smuggling fell from 156.1 tonnes in 2023 to 20.4 tonnes in 2025 after India cut import duties on gold.

Before the duty cut, an average of 108 metric tonnes of the precious metal was smuggled into the country each year over the decade, according to World Gold Council.

India imported 45.6 tonnes of gold in April, but imports may have halved in May as banks and refiners scaled back overseas purchases amid deep discounts, said a Hyderabad-based bullion dealer. Hefty discounts in the grey market have disrupted legal trade, pushing domestic discounts on legal gold to more than $100 an ounce as stocks imported before the duty hike are sold at steep discounts, making refining uneconomical, said James Jose, managing director of refiner CGR Metalloys. New Delhi levies a 0.65% lower import duty on gold dore, a semi-pure alloy, than on refined gold, but the alloy has also been affected by the tariff change.

"Gold refiners typically operate on margins of around 0.65%. With discounts now well above that level, refiners have little incentive to import dore," Jose said.

'RBI steps may attract $55-65 bn inflows'

NEW DELHI, PTI: The RBI's recent measures are likely to help India attract $55-65 billion in inflows in the current fiscal, stabilise the rupee, and push the country's balance of payments (BoP) into surplus, said an SBI research report.

The RBI's February and June 2026 measures should be viewed as a coordinated attempt to stabilise the rupee, deepen the domestic debt market, attract more stable foreign capital and reduce friction for external funding, Ecowrap Report from the SBI's Economic Research Department said.

Following the June monetary policy, the RBI has taken steps to attract foreign capital and strengthen the BoP.

The measures include a facility of concessional forex swap to incentivise external commercial borrowings (ECBs) by public sector undertakings. The RBI has also provided a similar facility for banks to raise fresh 3-5-year FCNR (B) deposits.

The February measures on the ECB were structural and market development oriented, while the June measures aimed to attract foreign currency inflows and support the rupee without raising domestic interest rates, the SBI report said.

"The estimated $55-65 billion inflows will ensure that the deposit growth for FY27 for the banking system could jump to around 14.5-15% against a potential credit growth of 16%," it added.

Commerce Ministry highlights FTA opps for Bengaluru firms

BENGALURU, DHNS: Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Darpan Jain, on Tuesday urged Bengaluru's large enterprises, MSMEs, and GCCs to make greater use of India's expanding network of FTAs to boost exports.

Addressing a media briefing in Bengaluru, Jain said India's services exports touched $421 billion in FY26, with the services sector accounting for nearly 70% of the total. Services trade generated a surplus of about $217 billion, helping offset India's merchandise trade deficit.

"In the last five years, we have signed nine FTAs with 38 countries. The government's objective is to ensure that through these FTAs, our exports receive the best-possible treatment in markets around the world. The opportunities created by these agreements will be realised only if our businesses are able to utilise them," Jain said.

Darpan Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

For Bengaluru's IT and IT-enabled services, Jain highlighted telecommunications, computer and information services as one of India's fastest-growing services export segments, with net trade expanding at a 16.2% CAGR.

For MSMEs, Jain highlighted the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), comprising Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha, which includes targeted support for MSME exporters through export credit, market access, logistics and trade-intelligence initiatives.

TERMINAL TENSIONS

Starlink India launch hits security roadblock before SpaceX IPO

BLOOMBERG

India has effectively frozen approvals for Elon Musk's space-based internet service Starlink to begin commercial operations, due to concerns over the use of its satellite terminals in the Iran war, according to people familiar with the matter.

Security agencies under Ministry of Home Affairs have withheld the final clearances Starlink needs to launch, the people said, requesting not to be identified discussing information that is private. Reports that Starlink terminals were in use during the West Asia conflict despite the service not being licensed in Iran have heightened fears in New Delhi about its ability to control a US-based operator during geopolitical tensions, they said.

The setback lands just days before SpaceX is expected to price what could be the largest initial public offering in history — a June 12 Nasdaq listing targeting a $1.75 trillion valuation. As the company's primary revenue engine, Starlink is central to that valuation, and the delay highlights a risk investors may have overlooked: its global expansion is far from uniform.

The service is effectively shut out of China. And India — the world's most-populous nation and one of the largest underserved broadband markets — is, for now, also out of reach.

The impasse has also stalled a satellite-spectrum pricing proposal required for any commercial launch, whether by Starlink or its Indian competitors. India's Department of Telecommunications has finalised the framework, but it has not been sent to the federal cabinet for approval, the people said.

A Starlink satellite-internet communication system antenna and router. BLOOMBERG

Starlink secured a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite licence in India nearly a year ago, allowing it to enter agreements and prepare for operations — which had been expected months ago. But the licence was only one step in a broader regulatory process that has since ground to a halt.

Security concerns

Last year, Starlink conducted security demonstrations reviewed by telecom authorities and a dedicated security panel. Since then, Indian officials have raised additional questions and sought further compliance measures, the people said. Its security clearance remains pending until Starlink explains how, given its global footprint and US ownership, it can guarantee compliance with Indian security requirements when geopolitical tensions generate conflicting demands from foreign governments, they said.

India's Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Communications did not immediately respond to separate emails seeking comment. An email sent to SpaceX went unanswered outside of regular business hours.

The heightened scrutiny extends beyond Starlink. Indian officials have adopted a more cautious stance toward the satellite-communications sector following the Iran conflict, the people said. Domestic operators Reliance Industries' Jio Infocomm Ltd and Bharti Airtel, both of which have partnerships with European satcom providers, are also facing closer examination of their arrangements, though they are viewed as relatively less problematic, the people said.

Jio and Bharti Airtel did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

The concern reflects a broader unease about relying on overseas-controlled communications infrastructure amid rising geopolitical uncertainty.

Starlink has continued engaging with Indian authorities, submitting affidavits and emphasizing that it meets local data-storage requirements.

It has also set up on-the-ground infrastructure — including about 10 gateways in India, with a hub in Mumbai. Senior company executives have periodically met ministers and government officials in an effort to advance the process, the people said. India, however, remains reluctant to provide a full green light to Starlink until its security concerns are resolved, the people said.

Young Sahana inching towards big dreams, one pedal at a time

The 13-year-old from Koppal is the one of the many budding cycling talents from North Karnataka

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The map of the long winding road is well memorised in the mind. The empty route ahead is inviting to the eyes. But at the point of takeoff during a mass start, the positioning of a restless body aboard a cycle becomes the most crucial.

The understanding and correct implication of such basics yet pivotal tactical nuances is what Sahana Veeranna Muttal is trying to master in her young career as a cyclist.

"I try to stay to the sides of the group at the start point," begins the 13-year-old. "Getting lost between many riders in between will lead to wasting time in finding a clear path. Once off, I try and stay behind the best racer in the group and match the pace set by the person. If I'm the best one in the race, then I play around with the timing of a sprint and long striding. All of these tactics are chalked out by Anita (Nimbargi) ma'am.. It's important to learn to become a good rider."

The certainty in Sahana's voice is contagious. It also gives a glimpse into the strong foundation on which the cyclists who train under Anita are built on. Such a healthy coach-student rapport is perhaps the reason behind the rich cycling history and culture of the North Karnataka region -- which has produced multiple international cyclists for decades. And it has now found yet another budding talent in Sahana.

The teen is currently the top Karnataka performer in the under-14 girls' section in both the 10 km time trial road race and the 2 km individual pursuit on track. Winning double gold medals at the State-level School Games last year in Vijayapura helped Sahana qualify for the sub-junior and junior Nationals where she has been the best finisher for the state in her pet events.

"We coaches can gauge if a kid has potential in the sport or not in the first few days of training," states Anita, a coach for over two decades at the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) sports hostel in Bagalkot.

"She has strong legs for her age and is naturally good at pedalling. The best part is she understands the tough circumstances at home and is determined to achieve something," says Anita.

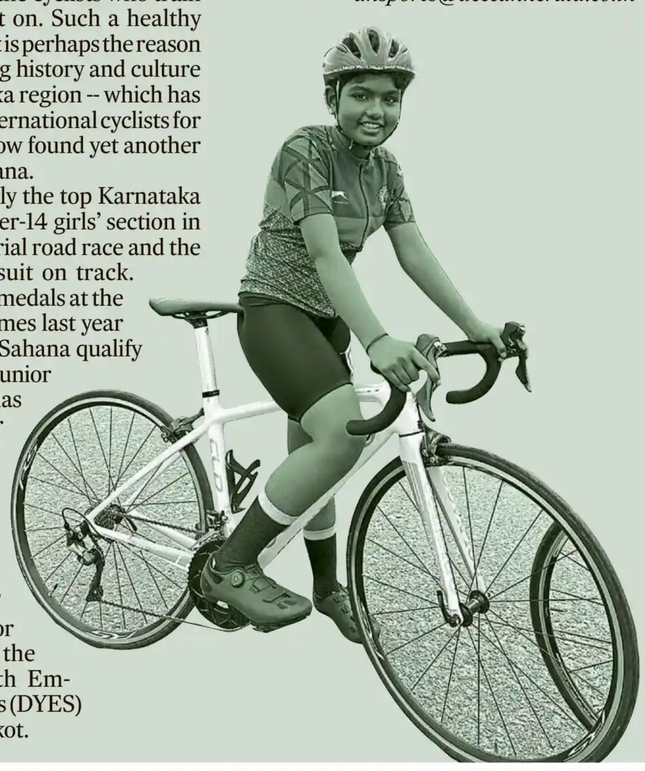
Coming from a humble background, Sahana lost her father in a road accident in Gadag five years ago, and the young girl's mother works as a cashier in a gas company near their village called Adur, Kukanur taluk in Koppal district. The youngster has already realised that sport can change her life for the better.

"I want to achieve big things in cycling for my mother," says Sahana.

"*Ilrri* (no), I don't get scared. Doubt? *Ilrri*, never happened. I trust what my coach has told me and cycle accordingly. That's all I know," says Sahana, an eighth grade student of the Basaveshwara Vidhyavarthaka Sangha School in Bagalkot.

The race of life for Sahana has already taking shape through sport. How far will she be able to pedal? Time will tell. For now, she has promised herself an international medal in a few years from now.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in



CRICKET TRI-SERIES

India A pull off a heist

Gaikwad scores a century as visitors edge Sri Lanka A by eight runs

DAMBULLA, PTI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's first outing for India A in one-day cricket ended with a muted 14 but his team hung in there till the end against a self-destructing Sri Lanka A to pull off an eight-run win in the tri-series opener here on Tuesday.

Chasing 278, Sri Lanka A had the game in the bag after captain Sahan Arachchige made a sublime 74 off 72 balls. However, the inexplicable loss of last four wickets in 10 balls, including three in the final over from pacer Arshad Khan, gave India A a narrow win.

The seasoned Ruturaj Gaikwad made a composed 101 to lead India A to 277 for six.

The spin duo of Ayush Badoni (2/46) and Anukul Roy (2/49) kept India in the game after the pacers, especially Anshul Kamboj, leaked runs early in Sri Lanka A's chase.

Sahan, who has played international cricket, got his team on the cusp of victory before being bowled by a sharp yorker from Kamboj. Too many soft dismissals towards the end of the innings handed the Tilak Verma-led side a sneaky win.

India A will next play Afghanistan A here on June 11.

The game also marked the comeback of Niroshan Dickwella (47 off 45) who shared an opening-wicket stand of 93 with another Sri Lankan international Avishka Fernando (45 off 59). Both the openers could not get their slog sweep right against Badoni to be caught.

India A's Ruturaj Gaikwad scored a 114-ball 101 to set up the winning total against Sri Lanka A during the Tri-Nation Series at Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Tuesday. BCCI

Electing to bat, India A were pushed to a mini-crisis at 16 for two in five overs after early dismissals of Sooryavanshi and Prabhsimran Singh. But vice-captain Gaikwad, who fetched his 21st List A hundred in 112 balls, and skipper Tilak Varma (60, 97b) added 150 runs for the fourth wicket to steady India's ship.

There were persistent strong winds across the ground, and the pitch too offered some assistance to the bowlers, making batting a rather tough proposition. But Gaikwad and Tilak summoned their years of experience in domestic cricket to resist Lanka's charge after coming together at 69 for three.

The Indian batters were a bit too slow to begin with, collecting their runs mainly through singles and doubles in the initial phase.

The lone display of aggression came when Gaikwad hammered spinner Vijayakanth Viyaskanth for a six over mid-wicket, which also helped him reach his fifty in 66 balls.

Thereafter he showed a lot more urgency to push the scoring rate ahead. Tilak was more focused on giving strike to his partner. The left-hander reached his fifty in 86 balls just like his partner, lifting slinging pacer Garuka Sanketh for a six over mid-off.

Gaikwad brought up his hundred with a single off left-arm spinner Wanuj Sahan, but got out soon to the same bowler while trying to clear the deep mid-wicket fence.

Tilak too walked back soon, getting castled while trying to ramp pacer Mohamed Shiraz (2/67). But Ayush Badoni (24, 18b) and Suryansh Shedge (26 not out, 14b) added 46 quick runs as India went past the 270-run mark.

There was a lot of focus on Sooryavanshi's outing and he seemed in a good touch while cracking three fours.

Brief scores: India A: 277/6 in 50 overs (Priyansh Arya 32, Ruturaj Gaikwad 101, Tilak Varma 60, Suryansh Shedge 26 n.o.; Mohamed Shiraz 2-67) bt Sri Lanka A: 269 all out in 48.5 overs (Niroshan Dickwella 47, Avishka Fernando 45, Sadeera Samarawickrama 46, Sahan Arachchige 74; Arshad Khan 2-24, Ayush Badoni 2-46, Vipraj Nigam 2-46). **Result:** India A won by 8 runs. **PoM:** Ruturaj Gaikwad. **India A's next match:** Afghanistan A (Jun 11, Dambulla).

Hardik Pandya (left) and Rohit Sharma passed their fitness test on Tuesday.

Hardik, Rohit cleared for Afghanistan ODIs

NEW DELHI, PTI: Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya and senior batter Rohit Sharma have been cleared by the Sports Science team of BCCI's Centre of Excellence to participate in the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan starting on Sunday in Dharamsala.

Both Pandya and Rohit missed quite a few IPL matches for Mumbai Indians due to their respective issues. While Pandya was battling back spasms, Rohit had a hamstring niggle. Hardik has been at the CoE in Bengaluru since June 2.

"Hardik was on a holiday abroad before he checked in at the CoE on June 2. Over the next five days, he did several match simulations and even bowled (full quota of) 10 overs," a BCCI source said. "There has been no discomfort and the information is that his fitness data for various parameters has been okayed by Strength and Conditioning coaches at the CoE."

Former skipper Rohit was also at the CoE to assess his hamstring niggle and he too has been given the go ahead after an examination.

Siraj advised rest, Prasidh named replacement for UK tour

NEW DELHI, PTI: Mohammed Siraj has been rested as part of workload management, with Prasidh Krishna named as his replacement for Ireland and England tours, the BCCI said on Tuesday.

The Board described the move as a "precautionary measure" to ensure quick recovery ahead of the long international season.

Siraj was named in the squad for the Ireland and England series consisting two and five T20Is respectively but was not picked for the Asian Games in Japan.

Updated squad: Shreyas Iyer (c), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Shivam Dube, Tilak Varma (vc), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Prasidh Krishna.

Tilottama takes close 2nd in Asiad trials

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka shooter Tilottama Sen finished second in a close battle to the top with Maharashtra's Sakshi Padekar in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions final of the T4 national selection trials for Rifle and Pistol shooters at the Trishul Shooting Range of the Maharana Pratap Sports College in Dehradun on Tuesday.

Madhya Pradesh's Ashi Chouksey, who leads the national rankings with an average score of 590.35, secured third place on the day at 345.5. Ashi is followed by Kerala's Vidarsa Vinod (589.75) and Tilottama (588.95) in the standings.

Vidarsa was placed fourth with 334.4 on the day while Olympians Anjum Moudgil and Sift Kaur Samra finished fifth and sixth with scores of 322.9 and 312.3 respectively. Army shooter Priya took seventh place with 302.7 after a shoot-off with Sift, while Haryana's Nischal Singh ended eighth with 300.7.

The T4 trials will conclude on Wednesday with the 50m Rifle Prone events for men and women.

Stokes could retire following nightclub incident: Report

LONDON, PTI

England Test captain Ben Stokes could announce his retirement following his involvement in a nightclub incident alongside team-mate Gus Atkinson.

The incident happened on Sunday night after England outplayed New Zealand by 115 runs in the first Test of the summer at Lord's.

TalkSport reported on Tuesday that Stokes is likely to step down from his role and could also announce retirement.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has already launched investigation into the incident, also allegedly involving a rugby player.

The ECB is currently investigating a breach of team protocols following the conclusion of the first Test against New Zealand. Stokes and Atkinson were present at a nightclub in the early hours of Monday morning when an incident took place.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) earlier announced that Ben Stokes (in pic) and team-mate Gus Atkinson were being investigated for breaking team rules in a nightclub incident after the Lord's Test. AFP

"We are currently seeking further information, and an announcement regarding the squad for the second Test will be made in due course. The Cricket Regulator has been informed and we will provide a further update when possible," ECB said.

Harry Brook, the team's vice-captain, had apologised for an altercation with a bouncer in New Zealand last year.

Former England pacer Steve Harmison came in Stokes' defence.

"When the full facts come to light, then I think we can make judgement. Ben's a great kid. He's an honest lad and he's somebody who will know whether he's overstepped the boundaries or not," Harmison told TalkSport.

"I'm fully behind him and he'll do whatever needs to be the right thing to be done in this situation once the facts come out. So I've got no issue with that. I've known Ben since he was 15-years-old.

"What I want to happen now is to make sure there's a protective arm around Atkinson and Stokes at the minute because there's a duty of care from a team point of view to make sure their mental well-being is alright.

"Because we don't know the facts and there's a lot of things going on here, but there's two lads here who I think need looking after from a team point of view."

The second Test against New Zealand begins at The Oval on June 17.

State's Srishti rises to world No. 1 in U-13 category

BENGALURU, DHNS: Continuing her rise on the international junior tennis circuit, Bengaluru's Srishti Kiran achieved another significant milestone by becoming the world No. 1 in the under-13 age group rankings.

Srishti Kiran

The achievement comes on the back of an extraordinary run that saw Srishti win five consecutive ITF junior titles before finishing runner-up at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J100 Guatemala last week.

The consistency propelled her to a career-high ITF Junior ranking of No. 357, making her the highest-ranked player globally in the Under-13 category.

"I'm really happy to become world No. 1 in my age group. It's something I wasn't thinking about at the start of the year, but all the hard work with my coaches, family and support team is paying off," said Srishti.

"The last few weeks have been very special. Winning five titles in a row and then reaching another final has given me a lot of confidence. At the same time, I know there is still a long way to go and many things I need to improve in my game."

Srishti's international campaign is set to continue in Europe. Subject to gaining entry into the main draw, she is expected to compete in a J300 event in the United Kingdom, regarded as one of the premier junior tournaments on the circuit and a key lead-up event to the prestigious Wimbledon Junior Championships.

Johnson stars in DBUFC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Johnson S struck four times as DB United FC trounced Pioneer FC Bangalore 10-1 in a North Zone's Group D encounter of the KSFA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

Results: North Zone: Group C: Black Moon: 6 (A Jude Franklin 3rd, James A 24th, Mark Stephen 33rd, Avinash M 42nd, 47th, 54th) bt Yelahanka FC: 0; Ronaldo FC Bangalore: 8 (Lunjakai Bate 3rd, 4th, 48th, Satlenchung Kipgen 10th, MD Riyas PS 21st, Sanju Kumar S 33rd, Ramesh B 43rd, Kevin Xavier 45th, Play 365 FC: 6 (Rohan MS 2nd, MD Shan MP 14th, 30th+2, Shushruth M 25th, Dhanush MV 36th pen, Nihal K 45th) bt Annsh Sports Club: 1 (Arun Kumar 10th)
Group D: DB United FC: 10 (Johnson S 4th, 14th pen, 24th, 37th, Sanjay S 11th, Adearsh A 18th, Josh Akash Raj M 23rd, Melvin A 45th, C Christopher 56th, Joseph Fernandes 66th) bt Pioneer FC Bangalore: 1 (Remisiama 45th); RV FC: 1 (Raju 53rd) bt Agniputra FC: 0
KSFA D Division: Group C: Willow Sports: 4 (Dennilsons 4th, 25th, 40th, R Sai Saren 35th) bt Team Plan C: 0
Group D: Premier Sports: 2 (Rishi Kant 21st, Arick Thapa 33rd) bt FCA Bangalore: 0; Rammurthy Nagar: 1 (Gokul M 1st) bt Bangalore Saints: 0.

Crown Drive for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

B Suresh-trained Crown Drive, to be ridden by Aleemuddin, is fancied to win the Amba Vilas Palace Trophy at the races on Wednesday. The first race starts at 1.30 pm.

1. The Arakal Gudu Plate - 1100M: Stormrider 1, Mystical Eve 2, Born Ruler 3.
2. The Chaitanya Chakram Plate (Div II) - 1100M: Just Blues 1, Our Asset 2, Saintly Star 3.
3. The Malavalli Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Walter 1, Sheer Elegance 2, Natural Diamond 3.
4. The Chaitanya Chakram Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Windborne 1, Purple Martini 2, My Life My Rules 3.
5. The Malavalli Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Cloudy Hills 1, Super Stride 2, D Romantic Reigns 3.
6. The Amba Vilas Palace Trophy - 1200M: Crown Drive 1, Rise Again 2, Perfect Blend 3.
7. The Bidadi Plate - 1600M: Golden Sabre 1, Sada 2, Cosette 3.
8. The Kollegal Plate - 1400M: Cynosure 1, Klimt 2, Belgownie 3.
Day's best: Walter. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. **Mini Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7, 8. **I treble:** 1, 2, 3. **II treble:** 3, 4, 5. **III treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

Saneeth enters Australian Open main draw

SYDNEY, PTI: India's Saneeth Dayanand **(in pic)** advanced to the men's singles main draw of the Australian Open badminton tournament after winning his qualifying matches here on Tuesday.

Dayanand, seeded fourth in the qualifying rounds, first eased past local hope Karono 21-17, 21-15 before logging a 21-9, 21-16 victory over Malaysia's Ming Hong Lim to make the cut.

The Karnataka man will face China's Hu Zhe An in his opening main draw game.

However, Manraj Singh lost his second qualification match, to Malaysia's Eogene Ewe 11-21, 18-21, to bow out of the competition.

In the men's doubles main draw, it was curtains for the Indian pair of Achutaditya Rao and P Arjun Reddy after they went down to the Australian combination of Kanki Igawa and Ooi Yi Hern 15-21, 15-21 in their opening game.

The tournament's main singles competition will get underway on Wednesday where India's challenge would be spearheaded by two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu.

Sindhu, seeded third, will open against Peru's Ines Lucia Castillo and is likely to face the winner of the first-round clash between fellow Indian Isharani Barua and China's Han Qian Xi. India has a sizeable presence in the women's singles draw as Tanvi Sharma faces fifth-seeded Chiu Pin-Chian of Chinese Taipei, while Malvika Bansod takes on Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei.

Anmol Kharb faces against former world champion and fourth seed Nozomi Okuhara.

Bangladesh thrash Australia to go 1-0 up

DHAKA, AFP: Mosaddek Hossain hit a career-best 86 not out and Nahid Rana took four wickets as Bangladesh trounced Australia by 86 runs in the rain-hit opening one-day international on Tuesday to go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

It was only Bangladesh's second ever ODI victory against Australia, following their famous 2005 upset in Cardiff. Mosaddek capped a fine all-round performance, bagging two wickets to walk away with the man-of-the-match award.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 284/8 in 50 overs (Tanzid Hasan 54, Najmul Hossain Shanto 67, Towhid Hridoy 31, Mosaddek Hossain 86; Nathan Ellis 3-38, Liam Scott 2-57, Matt Renshaw 2-35) bt Australia: 191/9 in 42.2 overs (Cooper Connolly 35, Alex Carey 47, Cameron Green 52; Mustafizur Rahman 2-24, Nahid Rana 4-41, Mosaddek Hossain 2-37). **Result:** Bangladesh won by 86 runs (DLS method). **PoM:** Mosaddek Hossain. **Series:** Ban lead the 3-match series 1-0.

All eyes on Ridhima, Vani

BENGALURU, DHNS

The southwest monsoon has set foot in Karnataka, and keeping to the tradition it brings along with it several top Indian women golfers to the state for the second half of the Hero Women's Professional Golf Tour (WPGT).

As the rain and wind put on a show, the female pros will hope to manoeuvre through the tricky weather conditions when the first of the six southern-leg tournaments begins at the picturesque Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Course in Mysuru.

Leading charge at the challenging par-70 layout will be the order of merit leader Ridhima Dilawari - who is in the midst of a fruitful season as the Delhi pro has clinched three of the six events held in the first-half of the year.

Joining Ridhima in the title quest will be fellow state-mate and seasoned campaigner Vani Kapoor - the 2025 order of merit winner with five victories on Tour last year.

Order of Merit leader Ridhima Dilawari starts as one of the favourites in the seventh leg of the Women's Pro Tour that kicks off in Mysuru on Wednesday.

The field of 51 golfers also has Amandeep Drall, Tvesa Malik, Neha Tripathi, Seher Atwal, among others. The local challenge will be spearheaded by Mysuru's very own Vidhatri Urs, who will be eager to put the knowledge of her home course to full use.

Chasing the pros will be 11 amateurs, including US-bound Zara Anand, Ananyaa Sood, Alysha Dutt and Ceerat Kang.

With the conditions expected to be windy and the compact greens acting as an added hurdle, a golfers' patience and shot selection will hold key on the course playing close to 6000 yards over the next three days.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC (warm-up): India vs England **(2:30 pm)**, West Indies vs Australia **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

Friendlies: Portugal vs Nigeria **(1:15 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1, SonyLIV.**

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

TOUCHLINE

Neymar

Neymar on road to recovery

▸ Neymar is "recovering well" from the calf injury that has made him a doubt for the start of Brazil's World Cup campaign, the team said in a statement on Monday, reports AFP from Morristown, USA.

Brazil's all-time record scorer underwent an MRI scan on Monday which showed he is "making good progress in his treatment" amid hopes that he will be able to play a part for Carlo Ancelotti's side in the United States.

Ezzalzouli races against time

▸ Morocco winger Abde Ezzalzouli has undergone tests on his injured knee to determine if he will be fit for his team's World Cup opener against Brazil, according to a source on Monday, reports AFP from Basking Ridge, USA.

The Real Betis forward sustained the injury to his right knee during Sunday's 1-1 draw against Norway in a pre-tournament friendly and had to be helped off the pitch.

"Everyone is waiting for Ezzalzouli's test results to determine the severity of his injury and to know if he'll recover in time for the World Cup," said the source.

Norway coach slams Scotland

▸ Norway manager Stale Solbakken criticised his Scotland counterpart Steve Clarke on Monday, labelling the side "unprofessional" after they unexpectedly called off a planned behind-closed-doors training match, citing player injuries, reports Reuters from Gdansk, Poland

The fixture, scheduled for Monday at Scotland's training camp in Charlotte, was arranged months in advance to give fringe players match practice.

France, Spain flex muscles

Olise dazzles in 3-1 win for Les Bleus; La Roja beat Peru by the same margin

France playmaker Michael Olise scored a hat-trick in Les Bleus' 3-1 win over Northern Ireland in Lille on Monday. AFP

PARIS, REUTERS

Michael Olise offered another glimpse of the influence he could have at the World Cup, netting a hat-trick as France edged Northern Ireland 3-1 in a warm-up game in Lille eight days before launching their campaign in the United States.

The in-form playmaker continued his rise as one of Les Bleus' key attacking weapons, but France's defensive concerns lingered four days after a 2-1 defeat by Ivory Coast with a much-changed side exposed frailties at the back.

France open their World Cup campaign against Senegal on June 16 in Group I before facing Iraq and Norway.

Didier Deschamps fielded what is expected to be his starting lineup for France's opener in New York, with Olise supporting Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele and Desire Doue in attack, while William Saliba partnered Dayot Upamecano in central defence.

Les Bleus made a sluggish start, initially struggling to break down a compact low block, creating few clear-cut chances before increasing the tempo and finding a breakthrough just before halftime.

Doue burst down the left flank and picked out Dembele in the box. The Paris St Germain forward's effort was deflected into the path of Olise, who tapped home to give France the lead two minutes before the interval.

Olise struck again four minutes after the restart, lashing a half-volley into the net after a poor clearance to double France's advantage.

Les Bleus, however, switched off defensively at times and, much like they had against Ivory Coast, were punished on the counterattack as Patrick Kelly met Shea Charles's cross with a fierce finish to pull a goal back.

But Olise was relentless.

The 24-year-old put the game beyond doubt in the 75th minute, curling a magnificent strike into the far corner.

1 DAY to GO

Spain shine

Spain beat Peru 3-1 on Monday in their final World Cup warm-up match, giving thousands of fans in Puebla a glimpse of one of the tournament favourites days before the global showpiece begins.

Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring after two minutes with a fierce strike from the edge of the area before Pedri doubled the lead after the half-hour mark, tapping into an empty net following a cross from Ferran Torres.

Spain added a third early in the second half when Yeremy Pino's delivery forced an error from goalkeeper Pedro Gallese, before Jairo Velez pulled one back for Peru with a low finish.

World Cup fever was evident around the stadium, where Spain shirts dominated the stands alongside Barcelona jerseys, reflecting the club's strong representation in Luis de la Fuente's squad.

Peru supporters were outnumbered but remained vocal throughout the evening.

Pedri, Rodri and Ferran Torres drew some of the loudest cheers as fans broke into chants and performed Mexican waves around the stadium.

Dutch struggle

Netherlands striker Cody Gakpo converted two penalties, one with the last kick of the game, to see his side edge Uzbekistan 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up friendly on Monday that was played behind closed doors at Icahn Stadium.

Gakpo had opened the scoring with a 31st-minute spot kick and then, two minutes after Uzbekistan had equalised in stoppage time at the end of the game, netted a second penalty for an unconvincing victory.

Somalian referee dropped after USA denies entry

LOS ANGELES, AFP: Award-winning Somali referee Omar Artan (**in pic**) has been dropped from officiating at the World Cup after being barred from entering the United States, world football's governing body FIFA said on Monday.

A FIFA spokesperson confirmed that Artan, who was refused entry to the US after arriving at Miami International Airport on Saturday, would play no part in the World Cup. Artan would have been the first Somali to referee at a WC.

"FIFA can confirm that match official Omar Abdulkadir Artan will be unable to train and officiate at the FIFA World Cup 2026 after he was denied entry into the United States," the spokesperson said.

FIFA emphasised that it was powerless to influence the decision, which it said was the sole preserve of tournament co-hosts the United States.

"FIFA is not involved in host country immigration processes, including visa adjudications, and has been informed by authorities that Mr Artan's status will not be changed at present," the spokesperson said.

"In line with previous FIFA events, a host government ultimately determines who receives a visa and who is admitted into their country."

Somalia has defended Artan following the incident that prevented him from becoming the first Somali official to officiate at a World Cup finals.

In a statement on Tuesday, Somalia's Ministry of Sports expressed "deep regret" over Artan's denial of entry, saying that despite diplomatic engagement with US authorities and world football governing body FIFA, it was "not possible to achieve a positive outcome"

Somali reaffirmed "its unwavering support" for Artan adding it "has full confidence in his integrity, professionalism, and continued contribution to the advancement of football both in Somalia and internationally. Artan represents the very best of Somali talent," reads the statement.

A spokesperson for United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said Artan was denied entry following a routine inspection.

"During processing, the traveller underwent additional inspection, a routine part of CBP's inspection process when officers need to verify information or determine admissibility," the CBP spokesperson said.

US revoked ticket allocation for our fans: Iran

Iran's football federation slammed the USA for revoking its allocation of tickets for its World Cup group games. AFP

TEHRAN, AFP

Iran's football federation on Tuesday said the United States has revoked its allocation of tickets for its World Cup group games, accusing the co-host of obstructing the attendance of Iranian supporters under the shadow of a bitter diplomatic row.

The US has presented a number of bureaucratic hurdles for Iran at the global football spectacle, including refusing to issue visas for some of its support staff, as the two countries remain at war after the US and Israel attacked the country in late February.

"With less than three days remaining until the start of the 2026 World Cup... the United States has once again acted to obstruct the presence of Iranian supporters at the stadiums hosting the national team's three group stage matches," the federation said in a statement.

The Iranian football body said FIFA regulations dictate that it should be allocated eight percent of tickets for each match, which are given to participating federations for distribution to their supporters through official channels.

According to the statement, Iran had already begun ticket sales for group stage matches against New Zealand, Belgium and Egypt -- all to be held in the US -- after receiving its quota, with some fans having already made necessary arrangements.

Mexico promises peaceful WC

MEXICO CITY, AFP: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Monday she could guarantee a peaceful World Cup opening ceremony this week, despite concern over ongoing protests.

A teachers union has threatened demonstrations at Thursday's opening game between Mexico and South Africa in the capital if the government doesn't respond to demands for salary raises and pension reforms.

"We are going to guarantee... that the celebration of the World Cup is well-executed, in peace and tranquility," Sheinbaum said in her daily press conference.

Last week, police dispersed protesters with teargas and rubber bullets outside the historic Zocalo square where authorities have erected a massive screen for a World Cup fan zone.

The streets surrounding the square remain closed off with metal barricades, which Sheinbaum has said are meant to guard against "provocations."

Protesting teachers also toppled commemorative statues of players in downtown Mexico City last week.

AIFF agrees to ISL's clubs-led model

NEW DELHI, PTI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has agreed "in principle" to the club-led model of running the Indian Super League (ISL) for two years and has conveyed it to the sports minister, a top official said on Tuesday.

The development appeared to have cleared the decks for the start of the 2026-27 season of the ISL in September as scheduled.

The clubs proposed to acquire the commercial rights of the ISL for the two-year period and pay the AIFF Rs 15.4 crore per year to cover the costs associated with the regulatory functions that the national federation is required to discharge in its capacity as the governing body, including refereeing, legal, integrity and others.

In their proposal, the ISL clubs had made "unequivocal" commitment that the AIFF's role as the regulatory body of Indian football will be fully preserved and respected.

AIFF Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayan said that a final agreement will be signed and formally announced on June 15 after "ironing out some details". He also said that 2026-27 ISL will begin on September 4.

"We have agreed in principle to the proposal made by the ISL clubs and we have told this to the sports minister (Mansukh Mandaviya). We will make a formal announcement on June 15."

India settle for 1-1 draw

HISOR, PTI: India conceded a late equaliser to settle for a 1-1 draw with higher-ranked Tajikistan in the second international football friendly here on Tuesday.

Vikram Partap Singh (23') scored for the Blue Tigers in the first half, but a defensive lapse from the visiting side seven minutes from time gave Tajikistan a spot-kick, and Sheriddin Boboev (84') stepped up to calmly slot the all past the Indian goalkeeper.

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